Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-91-009
Monday
14 January 1991

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NOTICE TO READERS: As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Human Rights Forum Founded, Registered

AU1201200091 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] On January 12 1991, Justice Minister Halili summoned to the Ministry of Justice representatives of the organizing group of the Forum for the Defense of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [Forumi per Mbrojtjen e te Drejtave te Njeriut dhe Lirive Themelore] in connection with their request for approval of the association in accordance with Paragraph One of Article 10 of Law No. 2,362 dated 16 November 1956 on social organizations without economic aims.

After acquainting himself with the program and other documents, which are in accordance with the law, he issued his instruction for the approval of the request for permission to found the Forum for the Defense of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, its registration in the appropriate ledger, and the deposit of its documents in the ministry's archive.

A copy of this instruction, which comes into effect immediately, was delivered to the organizing group for the formation of the Forum for the Defense of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Valias Strike Continues; Miners Give Demands

AU1201205091 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Interview with miner Ilir Zhbari, member of the initiating commission for the organization of the strike; by Sokol Perihati; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Perihati] Work has stopped at the Valias mine since 0700 yesterday. Miners, together with a (?seven-man) organizing group, have not been working for two days. To learn about their demands, we interviewed one of the members of the initiating commission for the organization of the strike, Ilir Zhbari.

[Zhbari] The demands of the working people of Valias and the strike committee elected by the working masses of the Valias mine, on the basis of our responsibility [words indistinct] decided:

1. For a review of the decision of the Council of Ministers on wages [words indistinct] to be increased for all workers in the mine.

2. Transportation [words indistinct] must be free for all workers without exception. [passage indistinct]

c) The environmental conditions for residents [words indistinct] should be solved by a specific date. [passage instinct]

3. Mines planned to incur losses [passage indistinct]

4. The retirement age for workers in the mine should meet the following demands: After 10 years' work underground, workers are to retire at 50, and at 40 after 20 years' work underground. For surface workers, the retirement age should be 55 after 15 years' work. Retirement may be taken at any time after this age has been reached, when working people wish. The pension will be the same, regardless of retirement age. The pension will amount to 90 percent of wages.

5. [Words indistinct] the abolition of voluntary work brigades.

6. The enterprise's cars are not to be used [passage indistinct].

[Perihati] These, among others, are the demands of the mine workers. At 1200 today, the strike committee met a coordinating group to compile the workers' demands, and at 1300 it met a government commission headed by Industry, Mines and Energy Minister Besnik Bekteshi, State Planning Commission Chairman Bujar Kolaneci, Finance Minister Qemal Disha, and others. After being confronted with the workers' demands, an agreement was reached to meet those concerning working conditions, transportation, food, etc., while the question of miners' retirement age was left for a future study to be considered by the competent authorities. Discussions continued on meeting the first demand relating to increased wages for working people in the mine. The discussions will continue this afternoon.

Minister Besnik Bekteshi, among other things, announced the dismissal of the mine director Avni (?Meta), and informed working people that, although their mine is expected to incur a loss, it will nevertheless continue in production next year. Similarly, urgent measures will be taken for the technological renovation of the mine in cooperation with a French firm. This renovation, according to preliminary studies, will cost $20 million. The minister also told workers that equipment and machinery for the mine valued at 1,400,000 rubles is expected to arrive in the country from Poland in the next few days.

This afternoon, dialogue continued in connection with the government's proposal to increase the wages of all working people in mines throughout the country by 300 leks a month. The doubling of wages demanded by the miners in this mine, which is planned to incur a loss, would significantly increase the mine's losses, which could lead to its closure. Discussions on these proposals are still continuing.

PDSh Forms Several New Branches; Rallies Held

Rally Held in Pogradec

AU1101204791 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] ATA reports that the Democratic Party [PDSh] organized a rally in the square in front of the Red Star Stadium in Pogradec on the occasion of the formation of its branch in the town. The architect Gjergj (?Ilo) opened the rally. The writer Mirosh Martaj, talking about the

democratic processes in Albania on the road of democratic traditions and of people such as Lasgush Poradeci, said that it was President Ramiz Alia who, as a wise patriot, announced political pluralism, and that the people have set out on the road of democratization.

Gramoz Pashko, member of the Initiating Commission for the creation of the PDSh, also spoke at the rally, and explained the PDSh's aims for the development of the economy in Albania. He also repeated here the PDSh's familiar demands in connection with certain problems involving the electoral law and the postponement of the elections. Other activists of this party also spoke at the rally, and the slogans "We, like all Europe, love Albania," "Freedom, democracy," and "Long live democratic Albania" were shouted.

The rally was conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

Rally Held in Lezhe 12 Jan

AU1201215291 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Tome (?Cercaj) report]

[Text] This afternoon, the Democratic Party [PDSh] organized a rally in Lezhe, in the square in front of the memorial in the town where our national hero Gjergj Kastrioti Skenderbeu lived, on the occasion of the creation of the party's branch in this district.

Inhabitants of the town and various villages of the district came to participate in the rally. The slogans of the rally included: "Long live democratic Albania"; "Long live President Ramiz Alia"; "We, like all Europe, love Albania"; "Freedom, democracy"; and others.

The rally was opened by Doctor (?Pal) Lleshi. The teacher Gjok Jaku's speech stressed that the democratic processes that are now being deepened in the course of political pluralism in our country demand moderation, wisdom, culture, and tolerance above all else, to place the interests of the homeland before everything else, and more work, which will bring inspiration for a still better future.

Azem Hajdari spoke in the name of the Initiating Commission of the PDSh. He dwelt on this party's program, stressing that the country's progress and Albania's integration in the great family of Europe call for a faster pace of economic development [words indistinct] than up until now, especially in the renovation of technology, which should be more up-to-date and efficient. There has been thoughtless expenditure in this field, he said, which has ruined the country's economy and has not yielded the desired result. Other speakers repeated familiar demands for the release of political prisoners. The rally took place in a regular way, and according to the submitted program.

After the rally, its participants continued to demonstrate through the town's main streets. [words indistinct] Everything passed normally. [Words indistinct] the complete dispersal of the participants.

Rally Held in Shijak 12 Jan

AU1201222391 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 2100 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The Democratic Party [PDSh] held a rally this afternoon in the main square of the town of Shijak on the occasion of the formation of its branch in this town.

The rally was opened by [name indistinct], member of the Initiating Commission for the creation of the PDSh's Shijak branch. Bardhyl Reso, member of the Initiating Commission for the creation of the PDSh, among other things pointed out that the people of the area of Shijak have embarked on the road of democracy with wisdom, clarity, and maturity. Condemning the acts of hooligans in some districts of the country, he stressed that they do not serve democracy and the country's development and progress. He also said that the PDSh will carry out its program in the political, economic, and social fields with dialogue and tolerance.

Other activists such as Agim Faja, Muhamet [name indistinct], and Ilir Dizdari also spoke at the rally.

PDSh Holds Rally in Tirana City 12 Jan

AU1201221591 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 2100 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The Democratic Party [PDSh] held a rally of solidarity this afternoon on the sports field of Tirana's Seventh District. The rally was opened by (?Ruzhdi) Kuka, lecturer at the Higher Agricultural Institute, member of the PDSh's section for Tirana District, who among other things said that through its program, the PDSh will struggle against bureaucracy and for prosperity and progress. He called for the PDSh's demands for the postponement of the elections and the release of all political prisoners to be met.

Aleksander Meksi, member of the PDSh Initiating Commission of the then took the rostrum, and stated that the PDSh offers a concrete economic and social program, and will work for a restructuring of the economy, free initiative, and a market economy, to overcome the current economic difficulties. In these historic days for the nation, the overwhelming majority has shown that it is for democracy, civilization and national conciliation and against violence, and favors the necessary measures for overcoming the economic difficulties and attaining prosperity and progress.

Bashkim [name indistinct], member of the PDSh's Tirana Section, then spoke and said that the people of this district have embraced democracy and shown themselves to be tolerant, as evident at this rally that we are organizing today.

Participants in the rally shouted the slogans: "Freedom, democracy"; "We, like all Europe, love Albania"; and, "Albania is ours."

The rally took place in a correct manner in accordance with the regulations.

PDSh Rally Participants Demonstrate For PLA

AU1101203291 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] ATA informs us that the Democratic Party [PDSh] organized a rally yesterday afternoon in the main square of the town of Memaliaj.

Bardhyl Reso spoke in the name of the Initiating Commission for the creation of the PDSh, pointing out, among other things, that, in these historic times through which we are passing, the progress of democratic processes calls for wisdom, skill, and cool-headedness from everybody, to preserve everything which we have achieved. These days more than ever call for tolerance, and the achievement of democracy and progress through democratic means. Talking about the PDSh's economic program, he underlined the goals it has set itself of improving working conditions and the difficult economic situation, and of achieving higher rates of development, so our country may join the great European family. He also put forward the familiar demand for a postponement of the elections. Selman Hodo also spoke at the meeting.

One group of people, participants in the rally, shouted the slogans "Freedom, democracy;" "We, like all Europe, love Albania."

After the rally, its participants demonstrated not only in the town's main square, but also in the streets, shouting with great enthusiasm "Party, Enver, we are always ready," "Albanian Workers Party [PLA], Party, Ramiz; Unity cannot be budged" ["Parti e Punes, Parti, Ramiz; Uniteti nuk leviz"]. Hundreds of these people boarded cars with portraits of Comrade Enver in their hands and went to the town of Tepelene, assembling in the square in front of the building of the District Party Committee. Here enthusiasm reached its peak. Thousands of people shouted for the PLA and Comrade Ramiz Alia. Many speakers at this spontaneous rally such as the worker Xhevat Kasolli, the student Agron Laka, the intellectual Novroz Shehu, and the writer [name indistinct] expressed their gratitude to the PLA and its leader Comrade Ramiz Alia. The participants shouted again for the PLA and its program and shouted the slogan "We will give our votes to the candidates of the PLA in the 10 February elections." The song, "Enver Hoxha, long life to you," was sung for minutes on end. This spontaneous rally took place normally, and the participants dispersed quietly.

Hoxha Statue Soiled at PDSh Rally

AU1101120091 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Belgrade, Jan 11 (AFP)—Albania is moving towards a "fundamental transformation" of the economy and society, Prime Minister Adil Carcani has said. In remarks quoted by the official Albanian ATA news agency, and monitored here, Mr. Carcani said that "the adoption of a new draft constitution must be the first and most important" legislative act of the new parliament to emerge from the election on February 10. It will be the first free election in Albania since a Stalinist form of communism was established at the end of the 1939-45 war.

Meanwhile Albanian television, also monitored in Yugoslavia, reported late on Thursday that Albanian demonstrators in the town of Bajram Curi hurled mud at a statue of the founder of the Albanian Communist Party, Enver Hoxha.

A meeting had been organised in the town by the recently-permitted Albanian Democratic Party which is the first and biggest party to have campaigned in opposition to the communist administration of President Ramiz Alia. The purpose of the meeting was to call for delay in the date of February 10 which has been set by the government for free elections. The opposition maintain that the date has been set to prevent the fledgling party from being in a position to challenge the Communist Party's apparatus. [passage omitted]

Post-Rally Message Sent to Alia

AU1101150891 Tirana ATA in French 1110 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, 11 Jan (ATA)—Comrade Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Albanian Workers Party [PLA] Central Committee, has received a message sent by the people of the town of Bajram Curri, which among other things stresses:

The Democratic Party [PDSh] organized a rally on the afternoon of 10 January in the town of Bajram Curri. This rally was attended by a limited number of citizens, including an imported group of supporters. The rally was watched from a distance by hundreds of inhabitants of the town. When the rally's organizers began to throw mud at the figure of Enver Hoxha, the PLA, and the achievements we have attained in these years of the power of the people, most of the participants in the rally were offended and—spontaneously chanting "Party, Enver, we are always ready," "Long Live Comrade Ramiz Alia," and "Long live genuine democracy"—went to the square in front of the District Party Committee.

(?We cannot be bought,) and will never forget to the end of our lives the word of honor we gave to the party. Our voice and our oath is for the party to the end of our lives. We will always be faithful soldiers here in the mountains.

Rival PDSh, PLA Rallies in Bajram Curri

AU1101201091 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The Democratic Party [PDSh] rally in front of the Dardania Palace of Culture in the town of Bajram Curri for the legalization of its branch in Tropoje District. The rally was opened by this party's activist, the engineer Rame (?Dymisha), who stressed that the people of Malesi e Gjakoves have always had democracy in their blood. This was seen in the June democratic revolution [of 1924].

Sali Berisha then evoked the democratic and patriotic traditions of the people of Tropoje, and among other things said that the postponement of the election, a change to the electoral law, and the release of political prisoners are our immediate demands for continuing the democratic process. He then pointed out that political pluralism marks the end of the savage class struggle waged by Enver Hoxha's regime for almost half a century. At this moment, Sadri Metaliaj came up to the microphone with two citizens and shouted the slogan, Long live the Albanian Workers Party [PLA] and Comrade Ramiz Alia. Then the rally began to disintegrate. Most of the participants began to leave the square and formed other groups.

The PDSh continued the rally with its members and supporters. Ajet Haxhia spoke in the name of the editorial board of the newspaper RILINDJA DEMOKATRIKE E SHQIPERISE, and Azem Hajdari also spoke. He dissociated himself from the behavior of Sadri Metaliaj, who shouted for the PLA at this rally, and suggested the intervention of the forces of order. Then, everything changed. Thousands of people set off, shouting "Long live the PLA," and "Long Live Ramiz Alia." The people went in different directions and three rallies were held in the town at the same time, at which orators spoke about their determination to continue on the road of deepening the democratic processes, led by the PLA. Our correspondent Ilir Bucpapaj reports that he could not follow all three rallies, but at the one where he was present, everybody shouted slogans calling for progress on the road of democratization under the leadership of the PLA. People were extremely enthused, and were shouting and singing the song "Enver Hoxha, long life to you." These rallies lasted more than two hours. The overwhelming majority of people demanded to send a telegram to Comrade Ramiz Alia in support of the PLA program. This telegram was read out and approved by the crowds. Its text was broadcast on television yesterday evening at the request of the people of the town of Bajram Curri.

Despite these powerful demonstrations, the important thing is that there were no incidents endangering people's health and there was no material damage. After the demonstration, everybody dispersed. Yesterday evening, the streets of Bajram Curri witnessed an entirely spontaneous and very passionate people's demonstration.

PDSh Expresses Intent To Meet Greek Delegation

AU1201220191 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 2100 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The Democratic Party [PDSh] held a news conference with journalists of our organs of the press, radio, television, and foreign journalists in one of the halls of the Palace of Culture in Tirana this afternoon.

Prec Zogaj and Genc Pollo, press representatives for the PDSh, answering questions by journalists at this news conference about what standpoint the PDSh will take if the election date is in the end not postponed, stressed that the PDSh thinks that it is unprepared to take part in the 10 February elections. It expressed the view that the elections should be postponed, and the best possible date decided. If they were postponed for two months, this would include the demands which other recently created political parties may make. They stated that the PDSh welcomes the creation of the Ecology Party and the Republican Party, as well as all other parties which will support freedom, independence, and the nation's interests.

Asked what the standpoint of the PDSh is toward the illegal flight of Albanian citizens abroad, they replied that their party has always made it clear that it is in favor of Albanians remaining and working in their country, and condemns strongly their departure by whatever means. In connection with tomorrow's visit of a Greek delegation head by Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis, they said that the PDSh expresses its desire and intention to meet and talk with this delegation.

FDSh Electoral Program Published

AU1301173891 Tirana BASHKIMI in Albanian 26 Dec 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Program of the Democratic Front of Albania for the Elections to the People's Assembly"]

[Text] The Democratic Front of Albania [FDSh], as an independent political and electoral subject, presents the following program for the election of deputies to the People's Assembly:

1. The main aim of the FDSh is and will remain to secure and strengthen national unity as a basic guarantee of the defense of freedom, independence, and sovereignty and the basic factor for the homeland's development and progress. It remains true to its basic goal expressed when it was created on the initiative of the Communist Party led by Comrade Enver Hoxha: the union of the people "regardless of religion, region, or conviction." The FDSh is open to all the people, and to parties, organizations, and associations whose programs aim to defend the lofty interests of the homeland to further democratize the country's life. The FDSh accepts the allegiance of these political forces without influencing their ideological and organizational individuality.

2. The FDSh supports with all its strength the irreversible process of the democratization of the country's

political, ideological, economic, and social life, always through democratic ways and means. It is against phenomena of all kinds which conflict with a democratic spirit, harm the people's unity, and lead to anarchy and destabilization. The FDSh will always support open dialogue and tolerance in discussing problems and of free and constructive debate in defining its standpoints and relationships with others.

3. One of the important tasks of the FDSh in the future will remain strengthening the people's power our society's socialist values. It will struggle to further democratize the representative organs of the state, the People's Assembly, and the people's councils; struggle in defense of the basic interests of the workers class, the peasantry, the intelligentsia, and all the people. The FDSh's deputies in the People's Assembly will commit themselves to approving laws which correspond to the people's interests.

They will struggle to develop a law-governed state, a state in which the law is above everything and in which everyone is equal before the law. The FDSh and its representatives in the People's Assembly will be in favor of a separation of state and party activities.

They will aim at full and realistic information for the masses about all the activities of state organs at the center and the base and the wider publication of their decisions and measures.

The FDSh will energetically struggle against signs of bureaucracy, liberalism, and conservatism as phenomena which harm national unity and hamper the country's development and progress.

The organization of the FDSh will struggle to ensure the total subjection of executive organs to legislative organs, and of elected representatives to electors, repairing errors and demanding the recall or dismissal of elected representatives when they do not justify the trust placed in them or perform their duties.

4. The FDSh considers socioeconomic development and progress and greater prosperity for the people to be its main field of activity. The inexorable progress of democracy cannot be ensured without economic progress and prosperity and without everybody's contribution. The FDSh will support the introduction of the new economic mechanism and all forms of initiative, including private initiative, which lead to increased production, employment, and higher material earnings for working people.

The FDSh and its deputies in the People's Assembly will ask the state organs to give priority to those branches of the economy which will faster improve the supply of the people with food products and staple consumer goods, communal services, health, and transportation, by exploiting all natural resources and existing economic structures.

The FDSh will support all forms of organization which increase the economic effectiveness of the agricultural cooperatives in accordance with their geographical and regional characteristics. It will seek to establish the fairest possible relations between collective property and personal plots.

The FDSh and its deputies will work for the further development of processing industries, handicrafts, and communications in the countryside and for a full completion of the program for drinking water. The main objective of the FDSh in the educational field in the countryside will be the spreading and improvement of universal secondary education, which will create opportunities for the college education of rural young people in all branches. It will seek an expansion of sociocultural facilities, such as nurseries and kindergartens; health, retail, communal, and cultural centers; and a better supply of household appliances and equipment for the reception of the media. All these measures will ensure the achievement of a rural life which will be as civilized and spiritually rich as possible.

The FDSh will help to create the socioeconomic conditions for society's further emancipation. In fruitful cooperation with the other mass organizations, it will work for the people's patriotic education, the consolidation of the family on a healthy moral basis, the upbringing of a healthy younger generation, and women's emancipation.

The FDSh will devote attention to measures for protecting the environment and natural resources, among other things, calling for the drafting and amendment of laws in accordance with our socioeconomic development and world standards.

The FDSh deputies will work to strengthen economic cooperation with the world through investments and joint enterprises, credit, and in other ways which do not encroach on the homeland's freedom and independence. They will struggle to ensure that this cooperation better exploits the country's geographical position and climate, further developing foreign trade, tourism, the infrastructure, etc.

5. The FDSh considers the protection of democratic freedoms and the basic rights of citizens recognized in the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and other legal acts to be an important duty. It will commit itself to guaranteeing the exercise of these rights, especially in equality before the law, freedom of speech, the press, public assembly and manifestation, and freedom of conscience. Through its representatives, it will seek for legislative improvements and amendments in this field in accordance with domestic developments and international documents on human rights. They will support more extensive rights for citizens to travel within the country and abroad, as well as the legal regulation of the question of religious belief and institutions.

The FDSh considers necessary the publication and popularization of legal acts involving citizens' rights and the procedures for exercising them. It will always defend the law and will strongly raise its voice against all acts that violate citizens' rights and freedoms.

The FDSh sees national minorities as a factor of rapprochement and friendship between the Albanian people and neighboring peoples. It is in favor of their complete equality with other citizens and will take care to protect and develop their national languages and cultures and to increase and facilitate their contacts with the nations to which they belong.

The FDSh and its representatives in the People's Assembly will be at pains to be in close touch with the worries and concerns of the people for the best possible solutions in employment, education, housing, and other vital problems. It will struggle against bureaucratic attitudes, privileges, injustice, cronyism, bribery, and other things detrimental to the people's unity.

6. The FDSh fully supports the just struggle of our brothers in Kosovo for the national rights, democratic freedoms, and economic prosperity which belong to them in full equality with the other nations in the Yugoslav Federation.

The FDSh highly appreciates and supports the efforts of the sons and daughters of the Albanian nation, wherever they are, to keep alive their love for their motherland and to maintain their traditions, culture, and national identity, as a valuable support which they have given and still give to the new Albania.

7. The FDSh supports our state's foreign policy in defense of the homeland's freedom and independence. It favors friendship and cooperation with all other countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect. It supports the just struggle of the peoples for freedom and national and social liberation and is against aggression, terrorism, oppression, and racism.

The FDSh supports the democratic processes which are under way today in the Balkans, Europe, and everywhere. It will work for Albania to be incorporated as soon as possible in the process of European integration, taking part in the CSCE and in all the different international forums and organizations.

The FDSh will maintain and establish ties with all similar organizations in different countries of the world which struggle for national and democratic freedom and for social progress.

Relying on its long positive experience in earlier campaigns and recognizing the shortcomings of these campaigns, the Democratic Front will struggle with all its energy to turn the present campaign into a school of democracy, dialogue, and tolerance. It invites everyone to demonstrate in their words and deeds that we are a civilized people, fully ripe for the new democratic processes.

The FDSh calls on the entire people to go to the polls and to elect their finest sons and daughters to the highest legislative organ.

Vote for the candidates of the FDSh!
General Council of the FDSh.

Soviet Economic Delegation Pays Official Visit

Greeted by Vice Minister

AU1401144891 Tirana ATA in English 0930 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 12 (ATA)—The vice minister of [the] Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of the Soviet Union Ivanovich Osadchuk, who leads the Soviet economic trade delegation, arrived in Tirana on January 11. As we have informed before, the working group of some departments of the USSR is holding talks with our respective organs on signing an agreement on trade, economic and technical long term cooperation between the PSR [Peoples Socialist Republic] of Albania and the USSR, as well as on the protocol on the trade- economic and technical cooperation for 1991 between the PSR of Albania and the USSR.

The delegation was received by the Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Kostandin Hoxha and other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Economic Agreement Signed 12 Jan

AU1201214791 Tirana ATA in English 1903 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 12 (ATA)—The agreement on long-term trade-economic and technical cooperation between the trade-economic delegation of the PSR [Peoples Socialist Republic] of Albania and the trade-economic delegation of the USSR, as well as the protocol of trade-economic cooperation for 1991 between Albania and the Soviet Union which includes the indicative lists of goods that will be an object of exchange for this period, were signed in Tirana on January 12.

Attending the signing ceremony were the minister of foreign trade, Shane Korbeci, the members of the two delegations, functionaries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

For the Albanian party the agreement and the protocol were signed by the deputy-minister of foreign trade, Kostandin Hoxha, whereas for the Soviet side by the deputy minister for foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union, Ivanovich Osadchuk.

Both parties agreed that both the respective ministries render the necessary assistance for the establishment of direct contacts among the Albanian and Soviet foreign trade enterprises. Likewise, in order to influence in increasing the trade exchanges, the experts of both parties agreed to exchange within February informative lists of [word indistinct] exchanges that were not included in the indicative lists for the mutual exchanges for 1991. During the talks the Albanian party confirmed that as it is agreed upon in the talks conducted in August 1990, it is interested that the Soviet organisations render their economic and technical assistance in the building, reconstruction of some industrial projects and other projects in the territory of the PSR of Albania. The

Soviet party agreed to accelerate the dispatch of its specialists to study the technical problems of the cooperation. Likewise, the Soviet party agreed on principle to provide on credit terms machineries, equipments, various mechanisms, transporters of various tonnages for goods, vehicles of different kinds for passengers transport, motorcars, special vehicles for various services etc.

In order to further encourage the development of the trade-economic relations they decided that the experts of both parties increase contacts and meet again within the first 6 month period.

Likewise, the talks on problems of the further trade-economic cooperation for 1992, will be conducted within September in Tirana.

Received by Carcani

AU1301155791 Tirana ATA in English 0931 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 13 (ATA)—On January 12 afternoon the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, Comrade Adil Carcani, received at the seat of the Council of Ministers the deputy minister of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of the Soviet Union, Yevgeniy Ivanovich Osadchuk, who heads the Soviet trade economic delegation.

Attending the reception was also the deputy minister of foreign trade, Konstandin Hoxha.

Comrade Adil Carcani had a warm and friendly talk with the delegation. He evaluated the normalization of the relations between Albania and the Soviet Union, the traditional relations which rely on common traditions and aired the feelings of friendship of our people for the Soviet people. He expressed the satisfaction over the signing of the agreement on the long term trade economic and technical cooperation and of the protocol on trade and economic cooperation for 1991 between our two countries. Comrade Adil Carcani spoke of the possibilities existing for the further broadening of the political, economic, cultural and other relations and exchanged views especially on some problems dealing with the renovation of the technology in various branches of the economy, with the investments that might be carried out through joint capitals or credits, to augment production and improve its quality in various sectors. Further on he dwelt on the political and economic reforms undertaken in our country, which create conditions for the intensification of the relations with different states on the basis of mutual interest. Likewise he spoke of the foreign policy of our country, which is for good relations with the states of the world, so that they be based on mutual respect, on the preservation of sovereignty and freedom of the peoples. With the changes that have taken place in Albania recently, Comrade Adil Carcani said, our country fulfills all the conditions to be a member with full rights in the CSCE.

In conclusion he expressed the desire of the Albanian Government that the relations with the Soviet Union be more dynamic and wished that the friendship between our two peoples be further promoted.

The deputy minister Yevgeniy Ivanovich Osadchuk, after thanking for the warm reception, pointed out that the decision of the leaders of our two countries for the reestablishment of the diplomatic relations is one of the wisest solutions, which is welcomed by our people. We come to Albania for the first time, but everything we saw and heard here, testified to what we had in our hearts, that the friendship between the Soviet people and the Albanian one has deep roots, not only among the old generation but also among the youth in the Soviet Union and in your country. We believe, that through joint efforts, we will further strengthen the relations in various fields.

Meets With Foreign Affairs Minister

AU1301160591 Tirana ATA in English 0945 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 13 (ATA)—On January 12 the minister for foreign affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Reis Malile, received the deputy minister for foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union, Yevgeniy Ivanovich Osadchuk.

During the meeting which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere, they pointed to the feelings of friendship existing between our peoples. Reis Malile voiced the desire and readiness of our country for the development and materialization of the relations between Albania and the Soviet Union in the political, trade-economic, technical-scientific, cultural fields, etc. He also spoke of the process of the further democratization of the life in our country as well as of some aspects of the Albanian Government's foreign policy.

On his part, Osadchuk voiced his country's interest in the further development of the relations with Albania and briefed on the latest developments in the Soviet Union.

On this occasion they pointed to the importance of the opening of the embassies of the two countries in the respective capitals to materialize the cooperation between our two countries in various fields.

Received by Foreign Trade Minister

AU1301155991 Tirana ATA in English 0950 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 13 (ATA)—On January 12 before noon the minister of foreign trade of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, Shane Korbeci, received the trade-economic delegation of the USSR headed by the deputy minister for foreign economic relations, Yevgeniy Ivanovich Osadchuk.

During the meeting they exchanged views on the further development of the trade-economic relations between the two countries, for the acceleration of the application of the

signed documents, for the opening of the trade representations of both countries in Tirana and Moscow, respectively as well as on other problems of mutual interest.

Greek Prime Minister Arrives in Tirana

AU1301142091 Tirana ATA in English 1158 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 13 (ATA)—On January 13, before noon the prime minister of the Hellenic Republic, Konstandinos Mitsotakis, arrived in Tirana on an official and friendly visit. At 0920 [0820 GMT] the airplane of the Greek airline company "Olympic," which the Greek prime minister travelled by, lowered on the Rinas Airport. The national flags of Albania and Greece are hoisted here, while the guard of honour are lined up in the airfield.

Present at the airport to welcome the prime minister of the Hellenic Republic, Konstandinos Mitsotakis, was the chairman of the council of ministers of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, Adil Carcani. Present were also the vice-chairman of the council of ministers and minister of agriculture, Pali Miska; the minister for foreign affairs, Reis Malile; the minister of foreign trade, Shane Korbeci; the minister of health, Ahmet Kamberi; the minister of justice, Enver Halili; the chairman of the Committee of Culture and Arts, Alfred Uci; the chairman of the Executive Committee of the District People's Council, Llambi Gegprifti; the director of the International Relations Study Institute, Prof. Sofokli Lazri; deputies, functionaries of the Council of Ministers, central institutions, and others.

Present to welcome the Greek prime minister were also the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic in Tirana, Stilianos Malikurtis and embassy functionaries, as well as the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PSR of Albania in Athens, Izedin Hajdini.

Comrade Adil Carcani cordially meets with Mister Konstandinos Mitsotakis and wishes him welcome to Tirana. Likewise the Albanian premier wishes welcome to the persons escorting the prime minister of Greece, to the minister for foreign affairs Andonios Samaras; the minister without portfolio, Mikis Theodorakis; the deputy minister to the prime minister, D. Bakoyianni; the secretary general of the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, B. Oikonomou; the secretary general of the press and information ministry, K. Pilarinos; the secretary general of the Ministry of Health, P. Kondoulakos; to the secretary general of the Ministry of Trade, N. Psillakis; the director of the Greek National Bank, D. Yiermidhis; to the senior representatives of the national organisation of tourism, the Department for Economic Affairs, and other personalities.

The wind orchestra executed the national hymns of Greece and Albania. The commander of the guard of honour, Aleks Andoni, presented the force to the prime minister of the Republic of Greece, Konstandinos Mitsotakis.

Then, the Albanian premier, Adil Carcani and the Greek prime minister, Konstandinos Mitsotakis, passed the guard of honour.

Together with the delegation came also a group of businessmen, as well as over 50 reporters of the press central organs, of the Greek Radio Television, and foreign correspondents based in Athens.

Lays Wreath at Cemetery

AU1301142191 Tirana ATA in English 1220 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 13 (ATA)—In token of reverence for the fighters who laid down their life for the liberation of Albania from the foreign invaders, the Greek prime minister, Konstandinos Mitsotakis, went to the martyrs' graves of the nation in Tirana. He paid homage and laid a wreath by the monument "Mother Albania."

While the wind orchestra executed the national hymns of Greece and Albania, Mister Mitsotakis stood in silence in front of the monument devoted to the martyrs of the Albanian nation.

Attending this ceremony were also the chairman of the Executive Committee of Tirana District People's Council, Llambi Gegprifti; the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Muhamet Kapllani; and the commander of Tirana Garrison, Bajram Mana.

Holds Talks With Carcani

AU1301201391 Tirana ATA in English 1902 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 13 (ATA)—On January 13, the government delegation of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, headed by the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Adil Carcani, and the government delegation of the Hellenic Republic, headed by the prime minister, Konstandinos Mitsotakis, conducted talks at the seat of the Council of Ministers.

Hailing the visit of the Greek prime minister to Albania, as well as of the other senior personalities escorting him, Comrade Adil Carcani said among others that it is a marked event in the Albanian-Greek relations for the fact that it is the first visit of this level between the two countries. He pointed to the ancient traditional relations between our two peoples, which assume a new meaning at present, not only on the bilateral plane but broader, especially for peace and stability in the Balkans.

The Albanian Government, he underlined, devotes a special importance to the relations with the neighbouring Greece. We wish that these relations be never conjunctural, but be constantly consolidated on a stable basis. He evaluated the good steps taken in relation to bilateral political dialogue, following the establishment of diplomatic relations. We, he said, uphold that in the future the official contacts increase,and become more efficient.

Then, Comrade Adil Carcani spoke on the Greek minority Albania. The democratizing measures and

important reforms launched in our country will have a positive impact also on the Greek minority, he said. The Albanian Government does not wish the recent events, the departure to Greece of a number of Albanian citizens, the majority of whom people from the minority. It wishes that they live side by side the Albanian brothers.

Further on, Comrade Adil Carcani dwelt on problems of trade-economic character. After analysing the hitherto achievements in this field, he pointed to the great possibilities and the reserves still unexploited in the bilateral cooperation, especially in increase in border trade, which actually is very small. The Albanian premier mentioned also the possibilities opened up to Albania, with the adoption of the respective legislation, for joint mutually beneficial investments.

Comrade Adil Carcani acquainted the interlocutors with the processes of democratization in the economic, political, social and other fields. He spoke also on the foreign policy of our country and on the stands of the Albanian government towards the process of Balkan cooperation, European and world ones.

In his speech, after thanking for the hospitality, the prime minister of the Hellenic Republic, Konstandinos Mitsotakis said that there are no problems, no border disagreements in the Greek-Albanian relations. Greece, he said, considers itself a friend of Albania and has no territorial claims towards it. The way to bilateral cooperation is open in the framework of the Balkan cooperation and of the processes of European integration.

I notice with satisfaction, Konstandinos Mitsotakis said, the promotion of democratic processes in Albania, emphasizing that the changes cannot take place immediately. Important is the fact, he said, that these processes are irreversible.

Just like the Albanian party, the Greek Government too considers the Greek minority in Albania as a bridge of friendship. Neither you, nor do we wish the illegal departure from Albania of a number of minority people, Mitsotakis underscored. We will cooperate to encourage the people of Greek minority to stay in the Albanian territory. On its part, the Greek Embassy in Tirana will certainly grant more visas to facilitate the move of Albanian citizens to Greece.

During the talks they spoke also on the expansion of the economic relations between the two countries.

The talks were conducted in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Carcani, Mitsotakis Speak at Dinner

AU1301201491 Tirana ATA in English 1921 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Report on speeches by Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis at the Palace of Brigdes in Tirana on 13 January]

[Text] Tirana, January 13 (ATA)—On January 13, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, Adil Carcani, gave a dinner at the palace of brigades, in honour of the prime minister of the Greek Republic, Konstandinos Mitsotakis, and personalities escorting him.

Attending were also members of the government, personalities of science, culture and art and other invitees.

At the dinner the premier Carcani and the prime minister Mitsotakis held speeches.

From the Speech of the Premier Carcani

It is a special pleasure for us, Comrade Adil Carcani said among others, to have today among us the prime minister of the Greek Republic and senior personalities accompanying him during this official and friendly visit to our country. On this occasion, allow me, on behalf of the Council of Ministers and on my behalf, to welcome the distinguished friends from neighbouring Greece to Albania.

Mr. Prime Minister, your visit takes place at a time when the friendly relations between Albania and Greece have witnessed positive developments.

The PSR of Albania has always pursued a policy of good-neighbourliness, aimed at ensuring peace and friendship with other countries, especially with its neighbours. Historical experience has taught our people to appreciate peace and to contribute to its preservation, closely linking it with the freedom and independence of the homeland, which has been and remains sacred to them.

The Albanian people, he pointed out, nourish a special respect for the Greek people, they have lived next to each other for centuries in these lands of our ancient peninsula. I think it is right to mention in this short welcoming speech that an important factor for the rapprochement and friendliness between us is the existence of the Greek minority which lives in full harmony with the Albanian people.

Mr. Prime Minister, respected guests, you have come to Albania, Comrade Adil Carcani underlines, at a time when our country is undergoing a very important process of deepening the democratization of the life, economy and politics, social relations, the protection of human rights, the strengthening of the juridical state. We are at a promising stage of these relations, of the expansion of regional cooperation, of the intensification of the efforts for the European security and integrity. Undoubtedly, by tackling the problems with realism and good political will we will improve significantly the political climate in the Balkans, we will create possibilities for the successful realisation of the cooperation already initiated in our peninsula. The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, recently held in Tirana, represents a positive development, testifying to the fact that the Balkan cooperation is becoming component part of the European positive processes.

In conclusion I want to express my confidence for the success of your visit to Albania, which will further consolidate the links of friendship and all-sided cooperation

between our two countries and will make a new contribution to the cause of peace and security in the Balkans.

From the Speech of the Prime Minister Mitsotakis

I am happy to be in Albania today, in response to your invitation for which I thank you, Mr. Mitsotakis said among others. Today, our two neighbouring countries, with many-year-long historic ties, under the hopeful messages of the new epoch we have ushered in, will give a fresh impulse to their relations, overcoming the separating lines, needed in other times. Nowadays, the changes are realized at rapid rates on world scale and in the Balkans cooperations are reorganised bringing its peoples closer. The confrontations of the past are replaced by dialogue and cooperation and the common European dream, which will soon leave aside the latest cultural limitations between our two countries, appears in the horizon.

The Greek minority, he says further on, is a strong link for our friendship. The Greeks of Albania will strengthen their cultural identity through the freedoms and rights this country guarantees to them. Likewise, Greece ,through its possibilities, wishes to be near you with concrete programs also in the trade and economic field.

I convey the message of friendship of the Greek people for the Albanian people and believe that in these moments, which I would describe as historic, a new and optimistic epoch opens up between us.

Mister Prime Minister, on this occasion,with feelings of respect for your people and country, Mitsotakis pointed out, I address the message of friendship to Albania, where Albanians and Greeks fight together for democracy, culture and progress.

Maritime, Tourism Accords Signed

AU1301201591 Tirana ATA in English 1932 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 13 (ATA)—Two agreements between Albania and Greece on cooperation in the maritime-trade navigation and in the field of tourism were signed at the seat of the Council of Ministers on January 13, afternoon.

The agreement between the government of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania and the government of the Hellenic Republic on maritime-trade navigation was signed for the Albanian party by the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Adil Carcani, and for the Greek party by the prime minister, Konstandinos Mitsotakis.

This agreement envisages the promotion of cooperation in the field of maritime-trade navigation aiming at extending navigation between the two countries on the basis of the principles of freedom of trade navigation, the participation of ships in maritime trade between the ports based on equal rights, the creation of facilities, mutual profit, etc.

The agreement in the field of tourism between the general department of Albtourism of our country and the Greek touristic enterprise was signed for the Albanian party by the director general, Jeton Hajdari and for the Greek party by the president of the touristic enterprise, Marios Raphael [name as received].

This agreement envisages the development and broadening of the touristic relations between the two countries, encourages the touristic travels by air, sea and motor roads, for the better movement of the tourists to the touristic zones, preferred by them in all the touristic centers of each country, etc.

The signing ceremony was attended by the members of both delegations.

Alia, Mitsotakis Speak to Journalists

AU1401092891 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] At 1700, Comrade Ramiz Alia, president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, received Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis.

A few moments before, Comrade Ramiz talked to the Greek and foreign journalists accompanying the Greek prime minister on his visit to Albania. He told them that he had no statement to make because Mr. Mitsotakis will do that. Nevertheless, Comrade Ramiz said, I wish to convey my best greetings to the Greek people to whom we are tied by a long history. We believe that this friendship will develop and advance. This is in the interest of the Albanian and Greek peoples. The arrival of Prime Minister Mitsotakis is an important event. This, Comrade Ramiz said in conclusion, was the statement I had for you.

Asked by journalists whether he would allow the refugees to return to Albania, Comrade Ramiz said that the main problems is that they should not flee Albania, and that they did not flee Albania because Albania wanted it. There are other factors that urge them to flee the country.

Asked another question, which stated that from what we have learned the talks are not proceeding on the road of good bilateral understanding, he replied: It has turned out that way for me so far. It seems that journalists are better informed than the prime minister.

Asked when churches will be opened for the minority, Comrade Ramiz said: When mosques are opened throughout Albania; that is, when the new constitution is approved at the first session of the new Assembly.

Asked when political prisoners will be released, Comrade Ramiz said that they are continually being released.

Regarding the question of whether the Cameri [area of northern Greece bordering on Albania] problem would be broached, Comrade Ramiz said this problem exists in a definite way, and therefore will be discussed in a definite way.

Prime Minister Mitsotakis and the personalities accompanying him entered the hall. Wishing them welcome,

Comrade Ramiz said that he wished to stress that the Albanian people and the Albanian Government are pleased that Mr. Mitsotakis has come to Albania. Your visit, he said, will mark an important event for both countries. We are two neighboring countries. Albania has been and is always in favor of good relations. It is interested in these relations being sincere, open, without prejudices, and able to meet new demands—in other words, the concepts of today's world. I believe that the peoples and countries are interested in having the closest possible ties, wish our borders to be quiet and stable, and want the contribution of our countries to be important in the Balkans.

Your arrival, Comrade Ramiz went on, coincides with two important moments: First, it coincides with Albania's current development and the democratization of life which is reflected in political pluralism, changes to legislation, and changes to our Constitution, which will without doubt create a (?positive) for Albania's comprehensive development. It also coincides, at an international level, with a new momentum in the world. I am bearing in mind here, Comrade Ramiz said, those great efforts which are being made today to overcome the spirit of the cold war, that spirit that sowed distrust among the peoples, led to misunderstandings, and sought to create an unfavorable atmosphere among different peoples. Albania and Greece, Comrade Ramiz continued, are committed to the Balkan process, just as they are in different ways committed to the development of events in Europe. I am convinced, he stressed, that your arrival in Albania will mark a new step, and will encourage our relations at all levels. Albania and Greece have nothing to separate them, and they have no debts to each other, either in history, or today. Albania and Greece have every opportunity to walk together. I have told my friend Theodorakis, and have also told Foreign Minister Samaras, that the Albanians and Greeks have lived for thousands of years in the Balkans, and it is to the honor of both peoples—Albanians and Greeks—that there has never been a war in these thousands of years. This is a glorious history, and there is no reason why there should not be good relations between Albania and Greece today, when efforts are being made to join continents and to draw peoples together. The present relations between our two countries of Albania and Greece, Comrade Ramiz said, are not what they should be. They must be much better, politically and economically and in the cultural sphere. It depends on us, but I do believe that goodwill will not be lacking from the Greek side, either. I hope that Mr. Mitsotakis' visit to Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia concluded, will be fully successful.

Mr. Mitsotakis stressed that he had had the opportunity to talk with the Albanian prime minister and other representatives of the government of Albania. I expressed my views to them clearly. I have come to Albania as a friend, and my desire is to improve our relations. It is not enough to say this: It must be done; however, achieving this requires efforts on both sides. We are determined, Mr. Mitsotakis went on, to be sincere with you, to be friends, and to talk about the problems we have in the hope that we will find understanding. This is a historic moment for improving our relations. We are following with interest the developments in your country toward democracy and the protection of human rights, and we appreciate your efforts, especially your personal efforts, Mr. President.

It is natural that we also care about the Greek minority in Albania, and as I said to Mr. Carcani, we want the minority to live here. They are Albanian citizens and enjoy the familiar human and religious rights that are laid down in the European Charter and are provided for by international agreements. We want this minority to be a link uniting us and not the cause for (?quarrels) and misunderstandings.

I wish to say to you and the journalists present, Comrade Ramiz said, that the impression should not be created that Albanian-Greek relations are merely the relations between the Greek minority and Albania. No. Albanian-Greek relations are relations between Albania and Greece. Comrade Ramiz Alia and Konstandinos Mitsotakis then continued their talks without the presence of journalists.

Council of Ministers Official Visits Hungary

AU1401145491 Tirana ATA in English 0932 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 12 (ATA)—On the invitation of the minister without portfolio of the Hungarian Government, Dr. Ferenc Madl, the secretary general of the Council of Ministers, Fatos Nano, left on an official visit to Budapest on January 11.

This visit takes place in the framework of the further development of the friendly relations between Albania and Hungary and the extension of economic-trade cooperation between the two countries.

At the airport, he was seen off by the undersecretary general of the Council of Ministers, Gjon Gorishti, deputy minister of forcign trade, Altin Ylli, and functionaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present were also Hungary's ambassador in Tirana, Ferenc Poka.

On January 11, the secretary general of the Council of Ministers, Fatos Nano, arrived in Hungary. At the Budapest airport, he was received by the Minister Without Portfolio Dr. Ferenc Madl and functionaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present was also the Ambassador of the PSR [Peoples Socialist Republic] of Albania in Budapest, Jani Polena.

Students Protest Soviet Action in Lithuania

AU1301191591 Sofia BTA in English 1854 GMT 13 Jan 91

["Protests Against Soviet Troops Intervention in Lithuania"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, January 13 (BTA)—In connection with the intervention of Soviet troops in Lithuania, today a demonstration of protest was held in front of the Soviet Embassy in Sofia.

There was a reaction to the developments in Vilnius as early as last Wednesday, when Mikhail Nedelchev, member of parliament of the opposition Radical Democratic Party, proposed the adoption of a declaration on the situation. The problem was discussed by the Parliamentary Foreign Policy Committee. It was decided that Bulgaria should not intervene in the internal affairs of the USSR. A statement to this effect was made last Friday by a deputy of the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

Today the Social Democratic Party was the first of the political forces to react to the Soviet violence against Lithuania. It addressed a declaration to the Soviet leadership in connection with the developments in that country. The Social Democrats call for reserve and political responsibility. It is underlined in the declaration that national, economic and political problems in today's world cannot be resolved by using force.

There have been also students' protests against the intervention of Soviet troops in Lithuania. A National Student Confederation was set up in Plovdiv today. Its members appeal for protest drives in front of the embassy and the consulates of the USSR in Bulgaria.

Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis Continues Visit

Addresses Grand National Assembly

AU1101172491 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1507 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Speech by Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis at the Grand National Assembly session in Sofia—live, in Greek with simultaneous Bulgarian translation]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, National Assembly deputies: It is a great pleasure and honor for me to address the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria today. This is even a special honor for me because you Mr. Chairman, and you gentlemen deputies bestowed this particular privilege on me, the prime minister of your neighbor country, Greece.

I accept this kind gesture as a symbol of the friendship between our two peoples, and I would even say, as the beginning of very close and friendly relationship between our two democratic parliaments. [applause]

With a feeling of particular joy I am addressing the democratic legislative organ of Bulgaria, which was established as a result of the free elections held in your country in June 1990.

The establishment of the present Grand National Assembly was the historical step by which the state expressed the change in the form of government in your country. That change occurred in November 1989. This is how a chapter in Bulgarian history was closed, a chapter which was submitted to the judgement of history. This was the beginning of a new era in the Bulgarian nation's life, in which the sovereign people will play the main role through their democratically elected representatives.

Mr. Chairman, National Assembly deputies, you are truly living through a period of historic importance in your country. You were elected in order to express and implement the Bulgarian people's aspirations for freedom, democracy, and justice. You are called upon to reflect the basic principles which are the guidelines in the constitutions of all civilized countries in your country's new constitution. You have engaged in the noble cause and have the privilege to respond to your country's requests and to fulfill the behests of your ancestors who drafted Bulgaria's first democratic Constitution in Veliko Turnovo, in 1879.

All mankind is looking with affection and expectations at this task of yours, and this applies to my country, in particular.

Bulgaria is a European country that has contributed to the history and civilization of this continent. You live together with us in a geographical zone where different historical civilizations crossed paths and met. Our ancestors lived through periods of prosperity and decline, of national uprising, and suffering.

We are joined together by common rivers and mountains, by common traditions and by the same religion. The loyalty and devotion to our own national, religious, and cultural traditions have stimulated our peoples' love of independence and their striving for the preservation of their traditional values.

The radical political and economic reforms under way in your country are merging with the great changes that have occurred in the world, changes imposed by the freedom-loving peoples of central and eastern Europe as their fundamental demands, changes which are being implemented by inspired political leaders. Your revolution avoided bloodshed but was not painless. You assumed the political responsibility and had the privilege of meeting the difficulties of the newly born democracy with courage, common sense, and national consensus. However, as the great ancient orator Demosthenes once said, it is more difficult to preserve our assets than to achieve them.

We all, both in Greece and Bulgaria, are confident that relations between Greece and Bulgaria are developing

harmoniously and show promise, and we are convinced that this is not only in conformity with our political will, irrespective of our party affiliations, but also in accordance with the will and expectations of our peoples.

History has brought us bloodshed, bitterness, and conflicts. At the same time, however, it has taught us a great lesson that only with peaceful coexistence, good-neighborly relations, mutual respect, and mutually advantageous cooperation can we progress and achieve a better future for our peoples.

From this great rostrum from which you invited me to speak, and which I regard as a great honor, I wish to confirm once more the ardent desire of the Greek people, of my government, and of all political parties in my country to preserve the exceptional relations with the friendly Bulgarian people and with its leadership. We treasure this relationship.

We are convinced that we find sincere and honest friends in you. We are gratified by the fact that our cooperation has developed in such a manner that our contacts are becoming increasingly frequent, at all levels, both in the foreign policy sphere and in national defense, which is in the interest of our two countries.

Side by side we shall further proceed on our path toward a new Europe in which all peoples belonging to this continent, while preserving their independence, their national and cultural identities, will work together, facing the great challenges of our epoch. These challenges are: The preservation of peace, the prosperity of our peoples, and the protection of our planet.

As is known to all of us, the name Balkans in the past was identified with local disputes and conflicts and with minority problems raised under different forms and pretexts. These processes were not in harmony with the civilization and development of the rest of Europe. I think that we all of us, who belong to this area, are beginning to become convinced that this image should change. This is our task and for this purpose we must join our efforts, both on bilateral levels and within the framework of all-Balkan cooperation, coordinated with the all-European processes.

At the meetings of foreign ministers from Balkan countries the emphasis was laid on the forms of cooperation which should soon produce practical results in fundamental spheres, such as environmental protection, transportation, power supply, the economic and trade sectors, and tourism. Following the first positive results, I think that we must also devote efforts to the establishment of some mechanisms of cooperation.

In this respect I would like to express some of the Greek Government's points of view on the so-called minority questions which caused so much suffering in our area. These questions should be regarded as issues related to the defense of human rights, and guarantees should be provided by the state for a basic protection of the people, and along with this, it should never be allowed to create opportunities for special privileges, nor for inadmissible interference, nor for conflicts, which in the long run, produce human misfortune.

Mr. Chairman, National Assembly deputies, as you know, democracy as a state form was founded in ancient Greece. In 1991 we shall celebrate the 2500th anniversary since Cleishtenes eliminated the despotic regime and laid the foundations of the democratic political system in ancient Athens.

Throughout these two and one-half millenia mankind has lived through great political and social changes, revolutions, and political experiments. The idea of democracy, however, has never been extinguished. Perhaps it receded and was put down for a time, but it was only to return with impressive strength and power, because democracy relies on basic human values, on the freedom and dignity of the individual.

Nevertheless, democracy is not only threatened by anti-democratic views that are distorting it under a totalitarian regime. Democracy is also threatened by its daily rejection by corrupted people and by over-active groups, by the exaggerated egotism and disregard for other people's democratic rights. In the first case democracy is destroyed and in the second case it eliminates itself.

This hall represents the creative laboratory of democracy in Bulgaria. Colleagues, permit me to address you in this manner, you are the creators and servants of democracy. You are making the mold through which, with great pains and difficulties, the glorious statute of democracy will emerge.

On behalf of the Greek people, on behalf of my government, I hope that your dreams may come true. I hope that your mission meets with a brilliant success. [applause]

We, your friends in Greece, are closely following your creative efforts, we are sharing your problems, we share your hopes, we have confidence in your people. We are convinced that you will create the liberal, freedom-loving and democratic Bulgaria.

With this conviction permit me to close my address with the following exclamation: Long live Bulgaria. [prolonged applause]

More on Address, Activities

AU1101221991 Sofia BTA in English 2023 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Sofia, January 11 (BTA)—For the first time in the history of the Bulgarian parliament today a foreign government leader delivered a speech from the tribune of the Grand National Assembly.

Having received a particularly cordial welcome, interrupted and seen off with long and loud applause, Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis, prime minister of Greece, addressed the Bulgarian members of parliament. His

speech was broadcast on the National Radio and the Bulgarian Television. [passage omitted]

Today the Greek prime minister had a meeting with Mr. Nikolay Todorov, chairman of the Grand National Assembly and honorary member of the society for friendship between Bulgaria and Greece.

Mr. Mitsotakis and the members of the Greek delegation had a meeting with the leadership of the Union of Democratic Forces.

The Bulgarian Prime Minister, Mr. Dimitur Popov, gave an official dinner in honor of his Greek counterpart at which the two heads of state delivered toast speeches.

Media Comment on Visit

AU1101182891 Sofia BTA in English 1339 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Boyko Borisov report]

[Text] Sofia, January 11 (BTA)—Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis, prime minister of Greece, arrived on an official visit here today at the invitation of the Bulgarian Government. This is the first visit Mr. Mitsotakis is paying to Bulgaria as head of the government of his country.

The traditionally good relations between the two countries have marked an upsurge over the past few years, especially after the process of democratization started in Bulgaria at the end of 1989. In the past four months alone, Bulgaria was visited by the Greek ministers of foreign relations, of trade and of northern Greece and a Greek trade representation was opened in Sofia at the end of last year. The mass media here are commenting in an extremely positive spirit on the contribution of Greece and of Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis personally to the decision to grant extraordinary aid to Bulgaria and Romania to the tune of 100 million ecu, taken at the EC summit in Rome last December.

In the difficult times which Bulgaria is now experiencing, hit by the disintegration of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Persian Gulf crisis, Greece has sent Bulgaria 1,000 tons of sugar, hundreds of tons of foodstuffs and many life-saving medicines.

Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis and his Bulgarian counterpart Mr. Dimitur Popov are expected to exchange opinions on the possibilities for promoting the mutually advantageous economic contacts. Over the past few years the average annual trade between the two countries amounted to about 200 million U.S. dollars but probably this sum will change considerably in the near future with the growing share of the reviving Bulgarian private initiative in bilateral economic cooperation.

In the political sphere the two sides will probably concentrate on the situation in the Balkans and on the role of Bulgaro-Greek relations as a stabilizing factor in the region.

Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis will be received by the Bulgarian head of state. The Greek prime minister will also meet the leaderships of the main political forces here. He is also expected to discuss with his hosts the development of the Persian Gulf crisis. Sofia and Athens support the resolutions of the UN Security Council on the solution of the crisis.

At Sofia airport the Greek prime minister was welcomed by his Bulgarian counterpart Mr. Dimitur Popov.

Holds 'Cordial' Talks With Popov

AU1101182791 Sofia BTA in English 1451 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 11 (BTA)—"Bulgaro-Greek relations are the basis for cooperation in the Balkans," stated today Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis during his talks with Bulgaria's Prime Minister Dimitur Popov.

Bulgaria's prime minister expressed his conviction that the official visit will give a new impulse to the further development of our splendid relations and will contribute to the improvement of the political atmosphere in the Balkans.

After the meeting Mr. Popov told the press he is satisfied and impressed by the goodwill and the constructive approach of his Greek colleague.

In cordial working atmosphere the two heads of government of the two neighbour states discussed a wide range of problems in connection with the further development of mutually beneficial economic cooperation. The Bulgarian part offered a package of proposals including draft agreements on encouraging investment, on avoidance of double taxation, on joint exploiting of deposits of mineral resources in border areas, on cooperation in tourism, etc. The draft contracts will be worked out by mixed expert groups, including the ecological sphere of cooperation.

Mr. Popov said they have touched upon the idea about a Black Sea economic zone. During the talks top priority was given to Bulgaria's relations with the EC and Greece has expressed strong willingness to cooperate.

According to the Bulgarian prime minister there is not a single unsolved problem in our bilateral relations. Mr. Popov expressed his satisfaction with the negotiations on the political aspects of our bilateral relations and the relations in the Balkans in general.

The communique on Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis's official visit and the two prime ministers' common press conference tomorrow will announce decisions which will be of interest not only to Bulgaria and Greece, the Bulgarian prime minister said.

Meets With President Zhelev

AU1201175191 Sofia BTA in English 1328 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 12 (BTA)—President Zhelyu Zhelev today received Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis, prime minister of Greece, who is on an official visit here.

The Bulgarian state leader characterized Bulgaro-Greek relations as a model of state-to-state relations and expressed Bulgaria's readiness to promote them further in all fields, including the military sphere. He underlined that all political forces in Bulgaria support the policy of deepening rapprochement with Greece.

The two sides exchanged views as to the further advancement of the two countries' relations in the economic field by relaxing the visa regime for the representatives of the business circles, exchanging experience in the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperating in tourism, et cetera.

Special attention was paid to the situation in the Balkans and the shared opinion was confirmed that Bulgaro-Greek relations play a stabilizing role in the region. It was agreed to coordinate the two countries' positions on cooperation in the Balkans something to which Bulgaria and Greece attach much importance.

Mr. Mitsotakis confirmed the principled position of Greece which is willing to render assistance in the promotion of Bulgaria's relations with the European Community and other European institutions.

Today the Greek prime minister met Mr. Viktor Vulkov, leader of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, and Mr. Aleksandur Lilov, leader of the Bulgarian Socialist Party. He had a meeting with the head of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Maksim.

Joint Communique on Defense

AU1201191091 Sofia BTA in English 1835 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 12 (BTA)—A step forward in the military cooperation between Bulgaria and Greece was made during the visit of Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis, prime minister of Greece, which ended today.

In the joint communique it is confirmed that neither country will "encourage or take up actions directed against the other one" and that "none of them will allow its territory to be used for such actions or for any similar purposes."

The formulation, which made much noise when the Declaration on Friendship, Good-Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation was signed by Todor Zhivkov and Andreas Papandreou on September 12, 1986, surprises nobody today.

But the following formulation is very impressive: "If a situation happens to arise which both countries consider to be posing a threat to peace in the Balkans or to the security of any of them, the two countries will immediately establish contact to exchange opinions and, possibly, to take jointly measures for removing the threat. Adequate bilateral mechanisms shall be created for this purpose."

Besides the above-mentioned clause and the agreement on holding periodically consultations and regularly exchanging summit level "political and working" visits "between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Ministries of Defence, the General Staffs and between other competent state institutions" of the two countries, traditional assurances are expressed that there will be more "transparency and confidence in the sphere of security," that there is "clear understanding on the part of both countries as to the necessity to observe their internationally undertaken obligations" and that both countries are willing to encourage cooperation in the Balkans.

At today's news conference the Greek prime minister stated that "the negotiations are going on" when asked if the signing of a separate document on Bulgaro-Greek cooperation in the field of defence was forthcoming.

Bulgaria's Prime Minister Dimitur Popov added that Bulgaro-Greek relations in general and the two countries' cooperation in the sphere of defence in particular were not to the prejudice of any other country.

At the news conference stress was laid several times by both sides on the role of the Athens-Sofia axis (as Mr. Mitsotakis put it) which is considered an important stabilizing factor in the Balkans. The Greek prime minister said that his country is "Bulgaria's natural ally."

It was announced at the news conference that Greek Defence Minister Ioannis Varvitsiotis would visit Bulgaria shortly.

Replying a question if the so-called "Macedonian problem" had been discussed, the two prime ministers confirmed their position that as there has never been any "Macedonian minority" in the territories of Bulgaria and Greece, the "Macedonian problem" is not existent. Mr. Mitsotakis said that the "Macedonian minority proclaimed by certain circles was a "ghost," while Mr. Popov expressed his concern over some alarming trends that had appeared in the Balkans. [quotation marks as received]

The communique on the development of the Gulf Crisis also voices concern. The shared conviction is expressed that a peaceful settlement of the crisis is possible only by applying the respective resolutions of the United Nations.

Agreements on avoiding double taxation of joint companies and on the protection of investments will be signed shortly. The visa regime for businessmen of the two countries is relaxed. A direct airline between Sofia

and Thessaloniki will be opened soon. The exchange of radio and television programs and of journalists will be activated.

A joint group of experts will work for the conclusion of an agreement on the just distribution of the Mesta River waters and on the improvement, through common effort, of the ecological state the transborder rivers are in.

An additional agreement will be signed to concretize the previous agreement on the operative notification of nuclear accidents and on the exchange of information concerning nuclear equipment.

Invited to comment on the proposal for setting up a Black Sea free trade zone, the Bulgarian prime minister said that Bulgaria would go on with the study of the idea, but within the context of united Europe where the Bulgarian people's major interests lie. He thanked his Greek counterpart for the consistency of Greece in helping along Bulgaria's integration with the European Community and the other European institutions. On his part, Mr. Mitsotakis underlined that the desire to render assistance in the promotion of Bulgaria's relations with Europe is Greece's principled position and invariable policy.

Today Bulgarian and Greek businessmen discussed some problems of the two countries' economic relations.

Irish Foreign Minister Collins Arrives 13 Jan

AU1301182291 Sofia BTA in English 1755 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 12 (BTA)—Mr. Gerard Collins, minister for foreign affairs of Ireland, arrived here today on an official visit at the invitation of his Bulgarian counterpart, Mr. Viktor Vulkov.

This is the first contact at the level of foreign ministers after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Ireland in 1990. The visit is expected to bring about a further improvement in the two countries' relations, which was confirmed by Mr. Gerard Collins on his landing at the airport of Sofia. As a member of the European Economic Community, Ireland is involved in the restructuring and rebuilding of central Eastern Europe, therefore there are a number of matters we can talk about, he stated.

The Irish foreign minister said he would want to hear Bulgaria's views on the complex and difficult situation that exists in the Persian Gulf with regard to which the two countries have a lot of common and would be appreciative of views from this country on the situation in the Soviet Union.

'Urgently' Departs for EC Meeting

AU1401092491 Sofia BTA in English 0857 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 14 (BTA)—Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Gerard Collins who arrived on an official visit to Bulgaria yesterday has left urgently early this morning to attend the extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the EC in Brussels.

Black Sea Cooperation Zone Initiative Assessed

AU1101114791 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 4 Jan 91 p 4

[Stefan Solakov article: "Black Sea Zone and Road to Europe"]

[Excerpts] The possibilities of expanding cooperation have been discussed for many years at all bilateral and multilateral meetings of Balkan countries' representatives. Unfortunately, none of the ideas that were proposed received the necessary unanimous approval. The initiatives on the nuclear-free zone, on banning chemical weapons, and so forth, some of which were prepared with our country's active participation, failed because of this. The great political changes in the Balkans in 1990 will probably facilitate progress and will prompt the countries to seek new ways of multilateral cooperation in the region. [passage omitted]

The Black Sea zone initiative aims first of all at establishing new economic relations between Turkey and USSR. The initiative was conceived and supported by the United States. Including Bulgaria and Romania in the initiative is the second stage of this idea. According to certain articles which appeared in our press, Bulgaria would lose its sovereignty—in anything related to its political and economic aspects—if it joins the project. Undoubtedly, such a danger exists. Nevertheless, such a danger looms in any economic treaty signed by our country, especially against the background of our economic performance that recently hit rock bottom. The same applies to Romania, despite the fact that this country is ahead of us in many industrial sectors, such as oil production, vehicle construction, and so forth.

If we overcome our traditional suspicion toward initiatives which come from Turkey, we must agree that an eventual Black Sea zone will facilitate a significant increase in trade relations of the region's countries. This will involve a greater movement of capital and more progressive forms of credits and financing, which could attract significant investments on the part of the world's banks. The Black Sea countries will obtain the possibility of enriching their economic relations and enter markets which until now were inaccessible for them. If the other Balkan countries also join the agreement, then significant Mediterranean regions will also be included, and this will expand the possibilities of the economic alliance.

The Black Sea zone project also contains many uncomfortable elements for our country, mainly related to its poor economic state at the present stage. Turkey does not conceal the fact that its economy will benefit most from the Black Sea project. This is related first of all to the significant potential of the Turkish economy, which inevitably will dictate the pace and terms to the other partners. The markets in Bulgaria, Romania, and a part of the USSR will be attacked by Turkish goods of mediocre quality that, nevertheless, will have "European" prices, i.e. much higher prices than those existing in the aforementioned countries. The stable and high inflation in Turkey will automatically spread to the other countries in the zone. The low standard of living in the former socialist countries also evokes serious concern. It could turn the working people into unequal citizens of the future Black Sea community.

The free movement of people and manpower envisaged by the project could create many complications, especially in Bulgaria, which still has not freed itself from the "Vietnamese syndrome." Our country could be flooded by uncontrollable groups of "wandering guest workers" from Romania and Anatolia, a part of whom will soon be expelled from their former areas of concentration in Western Europe. Despite the existence of a special section on ecological issues, the draft agreement on the Black Sea zone says nothing specific about measures related to saving the quickly dying sea. I strongly doubt that the envisaged economic initiatives will take into consideration contemporary ecological requirements. For Bulgaria this would mean the death of one of its most prosperous economic branches—tourism.

Personally, I am skeptical about the concern that Turkey will utilize the Black Sea project to conquer Bulgaria "from within." I am convinced that at the present stage, the motives of Ozal and his team are mainly economic. However, what will happen in the future, when a sharp transfer of Turkish capital to Bulgaria could induce future Turkish leaders to dictate political conditions as well? I think that this important problem could be resolved by signing bilateral documents in which Bulgaria and Turkey point out not only the measures on protecting their national interests, but also confirm their intention to not utilize ethnic groups for interfering in internal affairs.

The Black Sea zone could achieve its goals only if it does not prevent its members from achieving the more distant goal—the European Community. Therefore, it is necessary that countries such as Greece, Yugoslavia, and even Cyprus join the project. The project's existence will be justified only by the establishment of such a "package." Then it will be able to achieve the necessary prestige in the eyes of the world's developed countries.

Figures on Nationals Remaining in Arab Countries

AU1101182691 Sofia BTA in English 1400 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 11 (BTA)—Steps are taken to evacuate Bulgarian citizens from the Gulf by January 13-14 according to the degree of danger in case of military conflict, or to secure their safety. That was reported today at a briefing of the Ministry of the Interior [as received].

The spokesman of the National Coordinating Staff on the Gulf Crisis explained that this concerns the employees of the Bulgarian missions and enterprises, tourists, intermarriages, and Bulgarians with dual nationality (there are about 1000 in Israel).

Iraq is first among the countries with priority in the staff's evacuation plan. Mr Filip Ishpekov, deputy minister of the interior [title as received], announced yesterday that Iraq agreed to send home 120 of the 135 Bulgarian citizens still in the country by a charter flight on January 13.

There are about 600 Bulgarians in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the United Arab Emirates. Applications have been made to send Bulgarian planes for them to Damascus, Beirut and perhaps Cairo. There is another opportunity for them to return by car through Turkey. Airports in Israel are expected to be closed, so Bulgarians from there will fly from Cairo or travel by ship from Alexandria.

There are over 5,000 Bulgarians in Libya and about 300-600 in each of the Maghreb countries: Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. They will be provided with the necessary supplies and measures will be taken for their security.

In response to a question there was a statement that measures will be taken to prevent any acts of terrorism against Bulgarian missions abroad or against the missions in Bulgaria of the West European countries, the United States, the UN Security Council members and the Arab states which have sent military units in Saudi Arabia.

Ludzhev on Budget Deficit, Price Control

AU1101182991 Sofia BTA in English 1245 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 11 (BTA)—The budget deficit is likely to reach 6 billion leva instead of the estimated 2 or 3 billion, said Deputy Prime Minister Dimitur Ludzhev in an interview for TRUD. According to him the state has gone bankrupt and even the severest austerity measures might not produce the desired effect.

Dimitur Ludzhev points out that the present government has taken over a ruined country. Our predecessors have made indiscriminate expenditures, violating last

year's Budget Law and now the budget has no funds even for the most elementary crediting.

Mr. Ludzhev said that the government would not raise prices administratively but would cease to control them. However, the state would retain its control over the prices of seven items, cited in the Tax Law, and would continue to monitor the rise in the prices of 14 other basic consumer goods. If they surpass a certain level, the state will intervene by covering part of the expenditures from the budget and by introducing a consumer norm.

According to Mr. Ludzhev the initial soaring of prices would be followed by a slight fall due to the laws of the free market.

Mr. Ludzhev said that the prices published in DUMA two days ago showed what the result of the removal of price controls would be. They reflect the upper limit which prices might reach in the initial period and are only used to estimate the necessary nominal rise in minimum salaries, pensions and compensations. Mr. Ludzhev pointed out that from the time former prime minister Andrey Lukanov proposed his version of price increases till now, the inflation rate has ranged between 30 and 60 per cent.

Dimitur Ludzhev stated that in the coming hard times the Bulgarian people would always be told the truth. The government will cut expenditures by reducing the government apparatus and by eliminating subsidies. But every Bulgarian should realize that endurance is the way to salvation. We can arrive at salutary decisions only through dialogue and mutual understanding, he said.

In its efforts to change things the government will rely on highly educated people and on the people of all social strata who are determined to get rid of the past. According to the deputy prime minister all political forces are aware of the fact that there is no other way out and are willing to cooperate. Mr. Ludzhev said he feared the moment when the process of reform would reach a painful stage for the people. It might give rise to certain populist attitudes within the Bulgarian Socialist Party and other parties which would seek to torpedo the process. And this would mean betraying the interests of the country, Mr. Ludzhev pointed out.

Inquiry Reveals Support for Private Property

AU1201203091 Sofia BTA in English 1941 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 12 (BTA)—51.8 percent of the respondents in a recently held sociological enquiry categorically declare private property should be given a green light in Bulgaria; 26.7 percent consider private property should be allowed limited development.

The enquiry was held by the Central Statistical Department. The results were announced this evening in the Panorama block—one of the most popular programs of the Bulgarian Television.

According to the enquiry only 2.1 percent of the Bulgarians insist on a ban on private property; 7.2 percent consider privatization is not necessary; 12 percent of the respondents have no opinion on the matter.

The head of the enquiry team, the eminent Bulgarian sociologist Prof. Ivan Venedikov, said he is optimistic as to the economic reform in Bulgaria. The results of the enquiry show that the Bulgarians are realistically thinking, vital and assured people.

Prof. Venedikov predicted that if the agricultural reform is started now, the results of it would be felt as early as next year. The proof of it is the fact that 40 percent of the respondents would engage in cultivating the land immediately after the bill of land is passed, he said.

SDP Renamed Liberal Congress Party 12 Jan

AU1401095891 Sofia BTA in English 0851 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 14 (BTA)—The Social Democratic Party [SDP] (non-Marxist) has been renamed Liberal Congress Party (LCP). The decision was made at an extraordinary conference of the party on January 12 1990. Mr. Yanko Yankov, former chairman of the SDP (non-Marxist) and member of parliament, was elected chairmán of the LCP.

Reportage on Reaction to Events in Lithuania

Havel Expresses 'Shock'

LD1301232991 Prague CTK in English 2123 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel expressed on Czechoslovak television today his "shock and indignation" at the attack on Lithuania.

However, he said, he was not entirely surprised because he had felt for some time that Mikhail Gorbachev had not fully grasped the development and was "running behind instead of running ahead" of developments.

In Havel's opinion, Gorbachev could have separated the party from the state five years ago and could have proposed a union treaty which would have given a certain measure of sovereignty to the republics but he has been waiting till the last moment...

Havel thinks that Mikhail Gorbachev has not got rid of some illusions and communist paradigms. "As if he were trying to maintain the unmaintainable. The empire is a huge inorganic patchwork. In my opinion there were peaceful ways of making it into a kind of commonwealth and finding various forms of relations with the republics, from complete independence and friendship treaties up to federal forms", Havel said.

The time when all this could be done is apparently over and "nothing is left now but to occupy the cities of his own country with tanks and this is very, very sad. It is also alarming and it can have very unfavourable repercussions on international politics. It can destablize the world situation, especially if it should continue and other republics should follow", Havel said and indicated that he may write an open letter to President Gorbachev.

Commenting on the gulf the president said that "it is the duty of all of us to counter fanatical aggressors". "Saddam Husayn is an aggressor who attacked a country and who, if not forced to evacuate, can attack Saudi Arabia. He is a man who can put the whole earth in danger. It is the duty of all of us who want life on the earth to continue to counter such fanatical aggressors in the bud", Havel said.

This was the reason why Czechoslovakia has sent a unit of volunteers to the area and why it supports the Security Council resolutions, he pointed out.

The president revealed that he had spent the last three weeks on holiday at an unspecified clinic in Germany to receive rehabilitation therapy.

Use of Force Condemned

LD1301174491 Prague CTK in English 1546 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Government today condemned the use of force to suppress the right of nations to self-determination in Lithuania. It told its foreign minister to consult Polish and Hungarian representatives on possible joint action, including a rapid withdrawal from the Warsaw Treaty. The prime minister has been asked to summon Soviet Ambassador Boris Pankin, convey to him the Czechoslovak Government's stand and ask him for an explanation of the situation in the Soviet Union.

The government passed a statement which was presented by Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier. It stressed that "the use of military force against the legitimate bodies of state power of the Lithuanian Republic and against civilian population mars the process of the consolidation of security, peace and relaxation in Europe and undermines confidence in the democratic changes which have been taking place in the Soviet Union in the last few years. (The government) calls for the observance of the principles of legality, humanism, and respect for human lives. It regards the use of force to suppress the right of nations to self-determination as a gross violation of the internationally recognized principles of the coexistence of nations and nationalities, and therefore condemns it. It charged the foreign minister with consulting representatives of Poland and Hungary on the possibilities of joint action, including their discussion of a quick withdrawal from the Warsaw Treaty.

"The government considers it disquieting that the armed action of the Soviet Army against the Lithuanian people has taken place at a moment when the world public is watching tensely the efficiency of a joint action against the Iraqi aggression. It voices its deep concern that the development in the Soviet Union may escalate and threaten the destinies of other nations and nationalities living there.

"The Czechoslovak Government approved the decision of Prime Minister Marian Calfa to put off the agreed tour of Southeast Asian countries until it can take place. At the same time it asked the prime minister to summon the Soviet ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Boris Pankin, convey to him the Czechoslovak Government's statement and ask him for an explanation of the situation in the Soviet Union.

"The Czechoslovak Government calls on the Czechoslovak public not to organize any collections of things because there are no possibilities to deliver such humanitarian material assistance. Only financial assistance is of real and effective importance in the present situation and the number of the bank accounts set up for this purpose will be announced immediately.

"The Czechoslovak Government will follow the developments and consider all possibilities of assistance and political support to the severely tried Lithuanian people," the statement said.

Foreign Ministry Concerned

LD1101212791 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry has issued a statement through its spokesman Egon Lansky on developments in the Lithuanian Republic. The statement

expresses strong concern at reports emanating from Vilnius. A declaration issued yesterday by the Federal Assembly deputies had cautioned against the occupation of state institutions and vitally important installations by military force and the wounding of civilians. Czechoslovakia has always come out in favor of resolving the situation in the Baltic republics by means of dialogue between the republics and the central government.

The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry takes the view at this tense moment too that the situation can be resolved only by political means and by talks with the elected representatives of the Lithuanian Republic. The ministry is monitoring developments in the Lithuanian Republic closely, and will take possible further steps according to the situation.

Calfa Calls Emergency Session

LD1301134491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1100 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Alena Millerova report]

[Text] Right at the start this morning, the delegates to the Congress reacted to the tense situation in the Baltic republics, voicing disagreement with the Soviet leadership's action, particularly against Lithuania. Those present in the hall agreed that, during the morning session, a resolution would be drafted and approved not only expressing the view of the Civic Forum members, but also specifying how we would help the people of the Baltic states. This has occurred after Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier briefed the plenum on the latest developments in this crisis, announcing that Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky had gone to his ministry to arrange the organization of material aid requested by Lithuania. Preparations for the aid are underway.

In its resolution, the Civic Forum voiced solidarity with the people of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia and support for their just struggle for rights. It calls on the Soviet leaders to put a stop to the armed pressure in the Baltic area. According to the approved resolution, Civic Forum will liaise with the popular fronts there and will also organize the collection and dispatch of money, medicines, and other material assistance to the region.

In this regard, Dagmar Buresova proposed that the first financial collection to help Lithuania be made here. Congress participants then held a symbolic minute's silence to honor the memory of the victims of the Soviet Army's armed operation in that Baltic republic.

Before the Congress resumed its discussion of the concept for the new organizational structure, Minister Miller announced on behalf of Marian Calfa that an emergency session of the federal government was convened, and the federal ministers present left to attend it.

Now, to come back to the debate in progress here, views are being voiced about the principles for membership of the new party.

Cancels Asian Tour

LD1301144291 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1300 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The federal government convened for an urgent emergency session, chaired by Prime Minister Marian Calfa, in Prague, this morning, on the situation in Lithuania. The first decision was that Marian Calfa's scheduled visit to Southeast Asia will be postponed until such time as it is clear that the prime minister and other government members can leave the republic. Reports on the development of the situation in Lithuania were given at the federal government's emergency session by Ministers Jiri Dienstbier and Lubos Dobrovsky.

Calls in Soviet Envoy

LD1301180491 Prague CTK in English 1645 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—Prime Minister Marian Calfa received Soviet Ambassador Boris Pankin this afternoon, after the Czechoslovak Government instructed him to ask the ambassador for an explanation of the situation in the Soviet Union.

Calfa conveyed to him the Czechoslovak Government statement which condemned the use of force in Lithuanian.

The answer of Boris Pankin was based on yesterday's official statement of the Soviet Government, no other statement has been issued although the situation escalated during the night and today.

Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, who was present, said that in Czechoslovakia the view on the matter is enhanced by analogies with the year 1968 (Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia) and the Czechoslovak people are justly disquieted.

Pankin excluded such an analogy. He said that a Soviet Government commission is working in the area and is to analyze the situation.

The ambassador assured Calfa that he would immediately communicate this stand to his government and give information about a new stand of the Soviet leadership as soon as he receives it.

USSR Envoy Comments Further

LD1301215891 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1830 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador Boris Pankin by unidentified reporter in Prague on 13 January—recorded; in Russian with superimposed Czech translation]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Boris Pankin was expected at Prime Minister Marian Calfa's office this afternoon. His car arrived shortly before 1500.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, what is the latest information about the situation in Lithuania?

[Pankin] First of all I would like to say that the latest and the most important information I have is about the position of our government. As you know, a special session of the Council of the Federation ended yesterday evening, which discussed the situation in the Baltic states and adopted a decision to tackle all problems in Lithuania by political means only. The Council of the Federation immediately decided to send a delegation to Lithuania which includes representatives of Armenia, Belorussia, and officials of the Supreme Soviet. At this moment the delegation is in Lithuania and is holding talks with all the sides involved.

[Reporter] Do you already know the results of these talks?

[Pankin] I do not know anything yet. Only that the delegation of the Council of the Federation held talks in the Parliament, in the National Salvation Council, and with the command of the troops that are deployed in Lithuania. That is all I can say.

Civic Forum Condemns Events

LD1301173891 Prague CTK in English 1335 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—The Civic Forum (OF), the strongest political movement in Czechoslovakia, today condemned the military intervention against Lithuania.

It recommended to the foreign ministers of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary to quickly assess jointly the developments in the Baltic republics.

In a resolution passed at its congress the movement said it would seek intensive cooperation with the popular fronts in the Baltic republics and other foreign partners and agree with them on efficient joint steps to support the democratic forces in the Baltic.

The resolution said: "The OF Congress in the Czech Republic watches with concern the latest developments in the Baltic republics. The dangerousness of this development is still enhanced by the explosive situation in the Persian Gulf.

On the basis of the sad historical experience of our nations with the solution of political problems by military force we are convinced that the present disputes between the republics and the central authorities in the Soviet Union cannot be solved by force but merely by a calm and business-like political dialogue.

This is why the OF congress:

A. Expresses full solidarity with the people of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and with their independence effort,

B. Condemns attempts to reverse the democratic development in that area by military intervention,

C. Appeals to the decisive political officials in the Soviet Union to immediately end the violent actions in the Baltic,

D. Recommends to the foreign ministers of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary to quickly assess jointly the developments of the situation in the Baltic,

E. Calls on the Czechoslovak Government to immediately discuss the development of the situation in the area,

F. Enjoins the OF Council to prepare a plan of OF's further steps in the solution of this situation and set up intensive cooperation with the popular fronts in the Baltic republics and other foreign partners and agree with them on efficient joint steps in support of the democratic forces in the Baltic.

G. Enjoining the OF Council to organize collections of money, medicaments and health materials for the needs of the people of the Baltic countries.

The OF Congress is convinced that the situation in the Baltic and in other parts of Europe and the world must be solved in such a way as to be able to prevent a wave of violence and chaos." [quotation mark as received]

The participants of the OF Congress stood one minute in silence to pay tribute to the victims of the intervention.

The congress was informed of the situation in the Baltic by Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, a co-founder of the movement. He said that the action of the troops in Lithuania was apparently very brutal. He announced that defence minister Lubos Dobrovksy was organizing transport if aid was to be carried to Lithuania.

Social Democrats Condemn Action

LD1401013391 Prague CTK in English 1625 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party today vehemently protested against the military intervention in Lithuania and called for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Lithuania and the solution of the dispute by talks.

The party described the intervention as an action "which puts at a risk not only the further development in the Soviet Union but also the process of unification in Europe and balance in the world. This step is also worsening the situation of the united front of the world community at a time when the Persian Gulf crisis is culminating," the party said in a statement issued by its presidium.

For the citizens of Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Government action in Lithuania is too much reminiscent of August 1968, the party said recalling the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia which crushed its reform movement.

Czechoslovak Parliament Chairman Alexander Dubcek stressed today that "the principle that all disputes are to be solved by political negotiations and not by force is to be always present in international relations."

Dubcek was Czechoslovak Communist Party leader when Soviet forces invaded Czechosovakia in August

1968 and together with other Czechoslovak officials was abducted to the Soviet Union.

Asked by CTK for a comment on the situation in Lithuania he voiced regret that the Lithuanian-Soviet talks do not continue and that steps are not being taken to achieve a solution acceptable to both sides.

The "Aid the East" civic initiative has announced that it is immediately discontinuing work to aid the families of Soviet soldiers and officers who are being withdrawn from Czechoslovakia (some 75 percent of the troops which have been in Czechoslovakia since the 1968 Soviet invasion have now left).

The group said that besides its help to Czechs settled in the Volhynia region in the USSR it will also help Lithuania and its population, and perhaps also other nations to which the Soviet Union denies the right to self-determination, spokesman Pavel Kolinsky has told CTK.

Demonstrators Protest Events

LD1301232891 Prague CTK in English 1625 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—Demonstrators protested against the Soviet Army action in Lithuania outside the Soviet Embassy in Prague today.

The protest was organized by the Czech-Lithuanian Society, the Czech-Latvian Club and the Czechoslovak Civic Freedom Movement. Participants included Ukrainians living in Prague.

"We feel very deeply the duty not only to protest against the imperial bestiality of the Kremlin bosses. We also want to help efficiently those who are so sensitive to occupation and the loss of sovereignty, the Baltic nations", Tomas Karabela of the Czech-Lithuanian society told the participants.

He called for legal recognition of the Baltic states and establishment of relations with them. "It is Czechoslovakia's duty to give them this assistance", he said.

Security Measures Increased Due to Gulf Situation

LD1101233391 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1830 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Because war in the Persian Gulf appears to be unavoidable, Federal Interior Minister Jan Langos has announced emergency security measures. Martyn Fendrych, the ministry's press spokesman, told CTK that the measures are designed to ensure increased protection of representative missions, installations of special significance, and the state borders; to enhance the effectiveness of the struggle against manifestations of terrorism and crime associated with the smuggling and trafficking of drugs; and to ensure calm and public order during resolution of the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Further on Security Boost

LD1401064591 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Slovak 1830 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Measures in response to the recent proclamation by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn of intentions to send terrorist units to countries with military contingents deployed in the Persian Gulf area also target state border security. One of these measures is an immediate ban on issuing Czechoslovak visas at the Bratislava-Berk border crossing with Austria. This involves Iraqi citizens and all inhabitants of the Persian Gulf region. The only valid visas are those issued by our representative missions abroad.

In accordance with the regulations of the crisis staff [krizovy stab] working under continuous alert at the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, controls at all other crossings have also been intensified. This also applies to security at Bratislava airport.

Controls are aimed mainly at drugs and arms smuggling. Customs employees are cooperating with customs offices in neighboring countries. Nothing suspicious has been discovered so far. Still, customs officials will continue to carry out thorough controls. [passage omitted]

Delegation To Visit Gulf Chemical Defense Unit

LD1201201691 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1830 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Excerpts] A Czechoslovak Air Force airplane left Ruzyne airport in Prague early this morning. On board is a delegation of the Ministry of Defense led by [Deputy Defense Minister] Antonin Rasek. The delegation is on a trip to visit our chemical defense unit in Saudi Arabia, and is accompanied by Federal Assembly deputies and a Czechoslovak television crew. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker, in Slovak] We want to check the situation on the spot because we did not envisage that the unit would be stationed so close to the front. It was our moral obligation to send them there, and we just want to check why they are so close to the front. [end recording]

Dienstbier: Arms Supplies to Gulf Possible

AU1101231091 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 10 Jan 91 p 9

[CTK report in the "Briefly" column]

[Text] After the resolution of the problem of Kuwait, should it prove necessary to maintain a security balance on the Arabian Peninsula by means of an increased procurement of military technology, it can be assumed that we will arrive at agreements with the countries of this region on cooperation in the production of weapons or in trade in weapons. This was stated by Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs, in an interview with Mufid Dzazairi [name as published], the Prague correspondent of the WTN television network.

142 Nationals Evacuated From Gulf, 300 Remain

AU1101104691 Prague CTK in English 2232 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Prague January 9 (CTK)—142 Czechoslovak citizens working in the crisis-ridden Middle East returned home this evening on a special flight Prague-Sanaa-Damascus-Bratislava-Prague.

40 of them disembarked in Bratislava, leaving 102 people to be welcomed by Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier at Ruzyne airport here in Prague.

Every citizen who responded to the appeal of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and requested to return home was on board the special charter, according to Dienstbier. Several others had already left, when possible via regularly scheduled flights. About three hundred Czechoslovak citizens, representatives of the Czechoslovak Government and employees of foreign trade corporations, now remain in the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf, said the foreign minister.

In an improvised press conference Minister Dienstbier stressed that a half-hearted solution to the Gulf crisis would be a defeat for the world community. Everyone wishes for a peaceful way but the personality of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who has already "survived" politically one war (against Iran), presents the danger of unleashing a military conflict, said the Czechoslovak foreign minister.

Speculations about the possibility of Iraq acquiring nuclear weapons have led to a talk of a military clash and the first war of the 21st century, he added.

Disagreement With USSR on Troop Compensation

LD1101230891 Prague CTK in English 2144 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Prague January 11 (CTK)—While the evacuation of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia continues, there remain three problem areas where the Czechoslovak and Soviet sides disagree.

During today's meeting with a delegation of deputies from the Soviet Parliament's Committee on Defence and State Security, Chairperson of the Czechoslovak Joint Parliamentary Commission for the Oversight of Soviet Troop Withdrawal Michael Kocab noted differing points of view on several issues.

The main disputes concern the establishment and management of a joint account for financial settlements, compensation for damages incurred between August 21, 1968 (when Soviet troops entered the country) and October 18, 1968 (when an agreement on "temporary stay" was signed), and how to deal with Soviet real estate and personal property on Czechoslovak territory.

While Czechoslovak Commissioner for the Withdrawal of Soviet Troops, Major-General Rudolf Duchacek, said his government has estimated the value of Soviet property in Czechoslovakia at roughly 1,500 million crowns, the Soviet Union is talking about 4,000 million to 5,000 million crowns.

Moreover, in the last 22 years Soviet soldiers have constructed thousands of buildings that do not correspond to Czechoslovak norms and therefore cannot be used commercially, said Duchacek.

The general also stated that the Soviet soldiers' stay on Czechoslovak territory from August 21 to October 18, 1968 was without any legal basis whatsoever. (The "temporary stay" granted to Soviet occupation forces is now considered illegal.) Furthermore Soviet soldiers took the lives of 80 Czechoslovak citizens in that period and wounded many others, while causing great damage to valuable historical objects, according to Duchacek.

Chairperson of the Soviet Parliamentary Committee Leonid Sharin said the two sides should leave the past behind and look to the future instead, pointing out the extreme difficulty of ensuring the return of over 123,000 people to the USSR in such a short time. New apartments, barracks, stores, schools and community networks must be built, he explained.

Chairperson of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly Alexander Dubcek received the Soviet delegation this afternoon following their meeting with the Czechoslovak Joint Parliamentary Commission for the Oversight of Soviet Troop Withdrawal.

Dubcek familiarised his guests with current political developments in Czechoslovakia and explained why Czechs and Slovaks are following the withdrawal of Soviet troops so closely.

He expressed satisfaction that the withdrawal is proceeding according to plan, even though some issues remain unresolved (see above—ed.), and discussed with the Soviets the need to resolve the disputed points as soon as possible.

In connection with Czechoslovakia's request for Soviet aid to solve the problem of housing for Soviet officers returning home, Dubcek assured his guests that Czechoslovakia is also interested in aiding the Soviet Union. As the Germans also have an interest in the speedy withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia, it is possible that this problem can be solved in cooperation with them, he explained.

The leader of the Soviet delegation, Leonid Sharin, said in conclusion that the negotiations with the Czechoslovak deputies had been very concrete and useful, giving him reason to believe in continued cooperation and satisfaction for both Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

Calfa Rejects Austrian Offer for Closing Bohunice

AU1101223491 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 1830 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Marian Calfa by Alfred Schwarz; place and date not given—recorded; Calfa's statements in Czech with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Calfa] Even part of the Austrian press doubts the objectivity of the report by the Austrian commission [which examined the Bohunice nuclear power plant]. I personally do not want to judge that, I am not competent to do so, but it is characteristic that all other expert commissions came to a result that is different from that of the Austrians.

[Schwarz] Austria has made several offers to help with deliveries of electricity if Bohunice is closed down or to help with money. Why does the CSFR always say no to these offers?

[Calfa] The only proposal I have received from the Austrian Government is the offer by Chancellor Vranitzky to pay for the establishment of a control monitor system around the Bohunice nuclear plant. Everything else has been reported only by the Austrian mass media.

However, the Austrian side must know itself how much energy it has at its disposal. According to our information, Austria does not have the electricity reserves it would need to compensate for Bohunice.

[Schwarz] Are you not afraid that relations between Austria and the CSFR might deteriorate because of your sticking to nuclear energy, not so much at the political level but at the human level, because many Austrians are really afraid?

[Calfa] Yes, I am afraid of that, but those who are waging the campaign against Bohunice on the Austrian side should also have these fears.

Civic Forum Congress Opens; Deputy Resigns

LD1201190491 Prague CTK in English 1236 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 12 (CTK)—The Civic Forum (OF) today began its two-day Congress, perhaps the most important event in its history since its founding in November 1989.

Although its participants seem to be united that the OF must define more clearly its organizational structure, they differ if it is to turn into a political party or continue as a movement. The delegates will also debate an OF program based on a blueprint approved at a working meeting of OF district representatives at Olomouc December 9.

Participants include deputies of the Federal Assembly and the Czech National Council, the Federal and Czech Governments who were nominated for the positions by the OF. Also attending is a delegation of the Slovak sister movement, Public Against Violence (VPN).

Shortly after the opening, representative of the OF Coordinating Centre Dasa Havlova resigned her post on the working presidium of the Congress, over her statement on Thursday that Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus had been asked the day before to step down as OF chairman.

She said that "perhaps out of concern whether one person could hold two such important posts, or perhaps out of internal anxiety if the economic reform will proceed smoothly", she may have misinterpreted a remark made at the meeting of members of the Charter 77 human rights movement and Civic Forum founders. "I consider this my serious political mistake and am asking you to accept my resignation", she told the delegates.

Klaus Proposes Changing Civic Forum Into Party

LD1201190891 Prague CTK in English 1329 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 12 (CTK)—The current Civic Forum (OF) Congress "should turn into the founding assembly of a political party which will follow up the ideas and ideals that gave birth to the Civic Forum and which will be able to put its program into life efficiently also at the present time", Chairman Vaclav Klaus told the session in his opening address today.

In an assessment of the present situation in the OF he said that last October's OF Congress had already clearly spoken in favour of the OF movement to be turned into an efficient political tool. This demand was due to the fact that the OF, in its former form, ceased to be a sufficient guarantee of the more important parts of the election program, especially a radical economic reform.

Klaus recalled that already the October Congress laid bare a conflict between the OF base in the communities and districts, and between part of the OF political representation. This conflict became still more evident at last December's working session which adopted the so-called Olomouc theses. "At one moment there was even a danger that the OF might split from within", Klaus said. This danger was averted by the district congresses which gave support to a united political party.

Klaus described the conflict in the OF as a classical one between an ending revolutionary period and a beginning period of normal functioning of the state and society. He urged the delegates not to permit a split in the OF.

Klaus presented several proposals that would make it possible to turn the OF, now an umbrella movement without formal membership, into a political party. One of them was a draft program approved by the OF Council in the Czech Republic which is regarded as a sufficiently broad basis for the majority of people who have so far identified themselves with the Civic Forum to be able to become its members. At the same time it

prevents those who have nothing in common with the OF ideals to hide under the OF label, Klaus said.

Havel Urges Civic Forum To Remain Unified

LD1201191291 Prague CTK in English 1410 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 12 (CTK)—President Vaclav Havel, one of the founders of the Civic Forum (OF) in November 1989, has sent a message to the OF Congress in which he stresses the movement's responsibility for the future development in the whole country.

The message was read to the 171 delegates by Presidential Adviser Sasa Vondra.

Havel pointed out that the Civic Forum must gain new dynamism, a firmer leadership, greater discipline and comprehensibility. At the same time it should preserve its relatively pluralistic internal composition which stems from the genesis of the Civic Forum as a broad anti-totalitarian movement of various streams. "Although it would be easy to split into two, three or ten independent parties, it would be a thoroughly irresponsible decision which would be tragic for all and primarily for this country. It would mean disintegration of the formation that is the legitimate guarantee of the social changes now under way, and would thus put these changes at a risk", President Havel said in the message.

He explained that the responsibility of the Civic Forum to its voters is indivisible. If it is not possible to reach agreement on a joint election program in future, it will be only logical for OF to divide into several parties with several programs. Today, something like that would be a betrayal of the voters, Vaclav Havel wrote.

President Havel has been on holiday for reasons of health for the last three weeks.

OF Rejects Socialism, Seeks Capitalist System

LD1301201291 Prague CTK in English 1422 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—The Civic Forum [OF] passed at its congress here this weekend its newly defined program which clearly declares that socialism, the Marxist-Leninist ideology, reform communism and the so-called third road in the economy are unacceptable for it and says it will work for a system usually described as capitalist.

The document is to serve as its guidelines for OF's gradual transition from a movement to a political party with individual membership and a clear political line. The proposal to turn the movement into a party was approved by the delegates yesterday.

The program says that liquidation of the totalitarian system was dominant in the past activity of the OF, which was founded in the first days of anti-communist protests in November 1989.

"Today, however, we must pledge adherance to a program which will not only declare complete abandoning of socialism in any form but will also anticipate the adoption of quite a new political-economic system. This system is in complete contrast to the old system because it is founded on parliamentary democracy, market economy and an accompanying social network. Such a system is usually called capitalism."

The program rejects the Marxist-Leninist ideology in all its manifestations, socialism with a human face, ideas about a "third road" in the economy. It says that it is completely parting ways with reform communism.

OF's aims are to build a modern civic society with democratic institutions which would follow up the traditions of the European Christian civilization and the humanistic ar J democratic traditions of the 1918-1938 Czechoslovak republic and the experiences of the Western democracies.

A key point in its economic program is extensive support to the birth of private companies. It believes that a market—i.e. capitalist—economy cannot be created without changing the present state ownership into private ownership.

The program says that agriculture was one of the spheres worst hit by the totalitarian regime and the OF will call for maximum support to private enterprise in agriculture.

Social policy must be focused primarily on aid to the poor, sick, old, or otherwise handicapped people. Social policies must not forget young people at the start of their careers.

The OF lists the basic aims of the Czechoslovak foreign policy as ensuring security of the state and creating the best possible conditions for free contacts between Czechoslovak citizens and other nationals. Czechoslovakia strives to become a member of the European Community as soon as possible. It considers NATO as a guarantee of peace and freeedom. Even the latest developments do not decrease NATO's importance and it remains one of the main pillars in the construction of a new all-European system of security.

On the way to a healthy environment the task is to reach again the lost harmony between the economy and the living environment, the program says.

Culture must enjoy support of the state in accordance with the state's wealth and prosperity. Culture as a profession is not entitled to privileges over other professions nor to special conditions for its existence, according to the OF program.

Prime Minister Calfa on Economic Issues

LD1201000691 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1850 GMT 11 Jan 91

[News conference by Prime Minister Marian Calfa with unidentified reporters; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, people are complaining about chaos in our market, about the fact that goods are often not only overpriced but unavailable altogether. What do you think about this?

[Calfa] It is natural that the process of the liberalization of prices had an enormous impact on our home market. This is rather understandable—the market began to behave in a totally different manner and all those who are selling also began to behave differently. Shortcomings in relations between suppliers and consumers emerged.

In my view this is not a matter of economic reform, but it is a matter of a direct course of action by the management, both in the sphere of suppliers and consumers. Therefore, it is there where the problem should be tackled. To put this situation right, to normalize it, it is necessary that those bodies which are in charge of this sphere begin to take specific measures.

[Reporter] Does the federal government have any idea how much real income can fall in the context of the liberalization of prices and other reform steps?

[Calfa] Of course, we have a certain idea about it. Without such an idea we would probably be unable to carry out economic reform. Already when we were drafting the blueprint of economic reform, and later on at the end of the year when we were drafting the blueprint of social reform, we took into account several variants of the impact of the whole situation on our people. It is not an easy matter as the impact is really a considerable one. Considering various variants of the course of action it became clear that the fall of real wages would reach about 10 to 15 percent this year. We discussed this in the Council of Economic and Social Accord in the presence of the representatives of trade unions as well as employers and all of them objectively admitted that this was one of the first consequences of economic reform, not the final one but the first and initial one. We reached an agreement that a certain social agreement would take place that real wages will fall this year by not more than 10 to 15 percent. This is our rough estimate for this year.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, I do not wish to defend those who are unwilling to work, but does not our government, when embarking on reform, omit those who are unable to work? I mean small children, handicapped people, self-employed people, and pensioners.

[Calfa] I would divide that group as it is above all parents who take care of children and not the state. Only in the cases when there is no care provided by parents the state social care takes over but such are rather exceptional cases and therefore I do not think we need to speak about this.

Nevertheless, it is necesary to state clearly that the philosophy of certain care provided by the state for some categories of citizens is over. This means that the state will really provide support only to those categories of people who are unable to provide for themselves.

As far as handicapped people and pensioners are concerned, above all those who receive disability and old age pensions, we stated clearly that these pensions were valorized and this means that regarding this category, we take care that the pensions they receive are not falling in real terms. From 1 March we begin with increases—as was already reported by mass media—and we are going to watch developments in this sphere very carefully also in future.

[Reporter] It is possible to assume that not all the reform steps will be met with understanding. It is also possible to envisage that various groups of people, perhaps also political parties, will use hard reality to exercise pressure and reach their own goals, regardless of a possible destabilization of our economy. Does the government in fact have any space where to withdraw?

[Calfa] The government has nowhere to withdraw. This is necessary to state in totally clear and understandable terms—we have outlined the course of economic reform and we are determined to stick to it under any circumstances, at least this government certainly.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that some reform steps will not be welcomed by everybody with equal intensity. It is obvious that those who were well-off and who got much money for little work and who will be deprived of their comforts because of our economic reform are not going to applaud us. Nevertheless, I consider this to be natural.

It is worse if political capital is squeezed from economic reform and its possible variants, as has lately been the case, as you well know—some political parties, above all those who are socially oriented, have already begun to do so. It is necessary to be aware of this. I would like to point out that they likewise have no other possibility than to follow economic reform in the direction embarked upon by this government if we succeed in it.

[Reporter] Can I ask what you would do if, with your abilities, you were to find yourself without a job tomorrow?

[Calfa] First I would seek to make sure that I had a job. Secondly, my post is one of the most risky imaginable, because right from the start it is a fixed-term job. Thirdly, that thought has deeper implications. We must be aware that today the situation has come about whereby someone can come to work only to say goodbye because the next day he no longer has a job. This is not an easy situation in anyone's life, and it would be cynical of me to say that it was. It is really difficult. We in central Europe are not used to this, but I must say that we are creating opportunities, we are giving people their freedom, but the other side of that freedom is that people simply have to stand on their own two feet to a very large extent, but with a certain contribution in specified forms from the state. So I would seek to ensure that I had a job as soon as possible.

[Reporter] On Sunday you are heading a government delegation leaving for Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei. What importance does this have for our economy?

[Calfa] Czechoslovakia has one big handicap this year in that it has lost its former markets especially in the CEMA

states, above all in the Soviet Union and the former GDR. We are continuing to produce but are not sending the goods to those regions. Czechoslovakia therefore has problems marketing its goods, or it will have [words indistinct] of about $4 billion. We must find alternative markets for this region; there are not many of them in the world if we want the customers to pay us too, and we need that money. The period of supplying goods for various credits that will probably never be paid back is over. So my visit is motivated by that philosophy, we are going to a region that is very dynamic, that is developing, that is becoming industrialized. We are going to a region with which we once had relatively very good relations, especially with Indonesia. We are going to a region that has something with which to pay, it has oil, it has natural gas, and I am taking with me a large group of Czechoslovak businessmen—more than 20 of them. They should establish bilateral contacts there, and I think that through this visit we should show our face in that whole region and seek possibilities for making that region a customer of our goods and, of course, they can supply things to us, and they also have things we could buy.

[Reporter] Lately a view has often been voiced that the liberalization of prices should have been preceded by privatization. What do you think about this?

[Calfa] Of course, that would be a correct course of action but let us look at what has really happened. We began to consider privatization, but a view emerged then that it is first necessary to put right wrongdoings—that first of all it is necessary to return assets. Only after returning assets can it be determined which assets there are that cannot be returned or do not belong to anybody, i.e. the assets that should be subjected to the process of privatization. Only after privatization could we begin with the liberalization of prices. I would estimate the time required for such a process to be one and one-half to two years and this would mean that we can say goodbye to our entire policy, our entire propaganda linked to elections and election programs.

On the other hand, people keep expressing impatience that nothing is happening, that it is necessary to move forward, to continue.

Several things have now accumulated, but my personal view is that it is a matter of two to three months. It will settle down, it will be normalized and it will really move in the direction we wish it to move—i.e. normal competition relations will emerge on which value-price relations will be based.

Meciar Comments on Domestic Political Situation

AU1401111291 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 5 Jan 91 p 13

[Reprint of Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar article in Slovak weekly SLOBODNY PIATOK, No. 1: "Slovakia Full of Security and Insecurity"]

[Text] Of course, in the transition stage from one social system to another, political life is also accompanied by shortcomings; to date, dealing with them has not been simple. I do not condemn it, but I want to point out some issues which must be dealt with in the near future.

One of the characteristic features of our political system is that we have numerous political parties, many of which are in search of their political shape. They search for policies and often do not avoid copying others. They also look for organizational structures or for material and financial security, which they have lacked so far. They are also searching for their social bases and their own relationships to the state power. In the meantime, the right-wing orientation is forming very fast in the Slovak political system. The center stands on the basis of the civic movement, and the left-wing is weak. The incongruous shaping progress of individual political forces gives the impression that everything is drifting to the left, which is not true.

The dearth of the parties and movements' contacts abroad—with the exception of the Christian Democratic Movement—contributes to the inadequate shaping of the political system. However, when deciding on foreign policy orientation, the top political activists must also take into consideration social democrats and socialists, who are very successful in Western Europe, and with whom contacts are necessary.

We have taken over a tremendous system of bureaucratized state administration. It is not equipped with electronics, computer technology, or other things that would reduce the demand on the strength of the administrative apparatus. An imbalance is caused by our desire to have it more modern and effective but not having the necessary resources. Therefore we continue in what we condemn—substituting a profusion of people for technology. Nevertheless, he state administration is currently still overly involved in the economy. It tends to manage individual enterprises, hold a protective hand over these enterprises, and thereby also justify its own existence. The self-preservation mechanisms operate in the administration. This can be demonstrated on the example of a closure-designated ministry. I proposed to them that they prepare an employment program for the laid-off staff. They proved to me instead that another state administrative body must be formed under a different name but with an identical number of employees as the ministry had.

At the same time, the state administration remains incomplete because for years some self-administrative mechanisms were void and now we are unable to master them. Even the design we accepted has certain shortcomings, which must be corrected this year. In addition, a disease has spread; one that makes each ministry want its own state administration down to the community level. This means that the department principle, formerly characteristic of the economy, should be introduced for each branch. You could object that I am the prime minister of the government in which this takes place. The prime minister can do a lot, but not everything....

We must also respond to numerous social impulses resulting from the great sensitivity of Slovakia regarding

future security and insecurity. If some of the shock-reduction programs prepared by federal bodies were fully realized, we would have been very badly off. This was one of the reasons for our arduous struggle for power sharing, and why we emphasized so often that we have nowhere to retreat.

In a situation marked by social insecurity and tension, a mistrust of the representatives logically ensues, and people are justified in asking whether a discrepancy exists between what the representatives proclaim and the way they live and work. It provides impetus for rumors, false information, and also fertile soil for prophets, demagogues, and messiahs who always appear at such moments. It is an unpleasant state but one must reckon with it in political life.

In connection with political life and stage in Slovakia, I must say how disappointed I am with the low activity of the intellectuals. They do not release the life experience and wisdom they have accrued. They cannot find their place in social life. They are incapable of joining in. Many of them sit in their institutes and say: Lord, what will happen with us. While if they will find their place in labor and give their results to people, they will have achieved security. Yet should they not find their place, nobody will pay them for anything, and even the institutes in which they sit will cease to exist.

We must constantly search for unity between the people and the government. There must be an undisturbed, daily mutual contact and exchange of information. If this relationship is disturbed, a fast exchange of governments will follow without any result, the political crisis in Slovakia will deepen and it will be reflected in the economy. This also is one of the risks of our political system in its present shape and form.

Meciar Questions Effects of Screening

LD1401012191 Prague CTK in English 1954 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar said today that "extreme political groups" are trying to gain political capital from the proposed screening of top parliament and government officials to find out if they were not collaborators of the secret police "STB".

Speaking in his regular Sunday television address Meciar said that the result of the vetting carried out before last June's parliamentary elections was "deplorable" because people who had never been secret police agents were claimed to have been involved. "Their reputation was ruined," Meciar said.

Screening of Federal Assembly (parliament) and government members and their staffs was decided by the parliament last Thursday and it recommended that the governments and parliaments of the two regional republics do the same.

"The Slovak government will approve of the vetting on two conditions," Meciar said. Firstly that all files be returned to Slovakia in the same condition in which they were taken away, and secondly that a non-partisan commission of experts prevents their misuse in all disputable cases. Meciar said that files have been taken away from Slovakia despite guarantees from the Federal interior minister that they will never leave the Slovak Republic.

Most candidates for parliament were screened before the June elections at the request of the parties and movements which proposed them but a new system of the registration of agents has since been uncovered. A parliamentary commission investigating the November 1989 police attack on students indicated that it was more thorough than previous files available and the new vetting was thus recommended.

The parliament said that those on the federal level who will be identified as secret police collaborators will be notified and given 15 days to resign. If they choose not to step down their names will be made public.

Foreign Ministry's Position on Baltic Issue Cited

LD1101195691 Budapest MTI in English 1916 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 11 (MTI)—As was reported by news agencies, several European countries, and NATO and the European Communities, expressed their anxiety over the situation that has developed in the three Baltic republics.

MTI asked Janos Hermann, spokesman of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, about the Hungarian position.

We agree with the content of the mentioned positions. Reports arriving from the Baltic republics give rise to anxiety in Hungary, too. As we have stressed in the past, we understand the efforts of the Baltic peoples for self-determination. We hope that the situation will be settled in a democratic manner, through negotiations. Hungary is unanimously interested in a solution of this kind, the spokesman said.

SZDSZ Issues Appeal on Lithuanian Situation

LD1401004491 Budapest MTI in English 1718 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 13 (MTI)—The Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ] calls on the Hungarian National Assembly and the government to support the independence efforts of the Lithuanian people in an unmistakable manner, and to condemn the Soviet Government's aggression.

The executive body of the AFD made public its appeal in Budapest on Sunday.

Accordingly, Lithuania today needs solidarity, the lack of which set up Hungary for aggression in 1956. Today, just as in 1956, Moscow counts on the Middle East tension to divert attention. However, Moscow's aggression is just as impermissible as that of Baghdad. If it is not rejected in a firm manner, then the Baltic states could be the next tomorrow, and the process of troops pull-out from the occupied countries can also come to a standstill, runs the document.

The signatories see as justified their position, that the Hungarian Government should not have agreed about Soviet troops withdrawal in the framework of a mere inter-governmental decision, but should have declared the unlawfullness of the 1956 occupation. The appeal notes it is likewise being proven that Hungarian parliament and the government should have more firmly condemned the pressure exerted by the great power during the Soviet blockade afflicting Lithuania last summer.

'Considerable' Differences on Soviet Troop Pullout

LD1001233291 Budapest MTI in English 2001 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 10 (MTI)—Differences in views between the Soviet and the Hungarian negotiating parties continue to be considerable with respect to the evaluation of damage caused by the Soviet Army in Hungary, and the payment for the damage.

Since the beginning of the Soviet troops pull-out last March, this was the first occasion for the Hungarian parliament's Defence Committee to present the Hungarian blueprint for the future and to inform the Soviet Parliamentary Committee about the current situation. The talks were held on Thursday in parliament.

The current talks created the possibility for the parliamentary committees to draw closer in their positions, and for opening expert talks towards a concrete elaboration of the balance, the final result of which can be determined only after the troops withdrawal is completed.

CSFR'S Calfa Interviewed on Upcoming Visit

LD1301233191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0735 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Interview with CSFR Prime Minister Marian Calfa by Evelyn Forro; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] It is noteworthy that in a disintegrating system, Hungarian-Czechoslovak economic relations remain able to function even without dollar accounting. It is expected that the head of the Prague federal government will travel to Budapest soon. Evelyn Forro interviewed Marian Calfa.

[Forro] Mr. Prime Minister, what kinds of questions will you have to address during your visit to Budapest in the near future—at your news conference at the end of last year you mentioned that you expected to travel to Budapest as early as January 1991?

[Calfa] This cannot yet be confirmed exactly. Originally, we were to meet Mr. Jozsef Antall in December. This meeting did not materialize because he too was busy, and we had a lot of work at the end of December. We agreed that it would be a good thing to meet in the near future, even in January.

Hungary, in addition to the fact that she is an important neighbor, is also the only the country with which the accounting in national currencies has remained, and I find this very important.

The first area of problems we want to solve under any circumstances concerns economic issues. The second issue is, undoubtedly, the Pentagonal, and general cooperation within Central Europe. The third area of issues affects bilateral relations, too—not only economic aspects, however, but other spheres—such as culture and

education, because a large number of Hungarian minority members live in our country, primarily in Slovakia. There are open questions about Bos-Nagymaros, too. Although we have empowered the Slovak prime minister to negotiate, he acts in the name of the federal government, because we consider this as a federal matter.

[Forro] It appears to me that the federal governnment gave in to Slovak government pressure when it authorized Vladimir Meciar to head the negotiations. What is the guarantee that he will represent not Slovak but federal interests?

[Calfa] Although the federal government satisfied the Slovak government's request when it authorized Meciar to conduct the negotiations, people must also be made aware of the fact that previously it was Milan Cic, Meciar's predecessor, who represented Czechoslovak interests.

As to what the guarantee is, we have asked him to work out a detailed line in the direction of negotiations, and this must first be approved by the federal government. Then Meciar must adhere to the line of direction approved by the cabinet of the federal government, and it is only on the basis of this that he can conduct the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Talks on Dam Project End on 'Positive Note'

LD1001175191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0530 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Erno Kardos report from Bratislava; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Yesterday's meeting between government commissioners concerning the future of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros water barrage ended on a positive note.

[Kardos] The discussion of the government commissioners ended with the agreements that the Czechoslovak and Hungarian Governments will jointly initiate ending the interstate agreement of 1977. The agreement which the Czechoslovak and Hungarian Governments wish to terminate provides the basis for beginning the construction of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros project.

The partners signing the communique also agreed that it will be the duty of the relevant ministers and government commissioners to make arrangements with regard to compensation or a possible new treaty.

This could certainly mean a breakthrough on ending the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros project or the realization of environmental protection considerations.

It transpired at the meeting of the Hungarian and Czechoslovak Government comissioners that the Slovak government is under pressure, not only because the Hungarians do not want to build the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros power station, but also because the Czechoslovak Federal Government has also declared that they will not make any contributions toward building the water barrage unless an unbiased team of international experts will guarantee that an ecological disaster can be avoided. Nor will there by any funds from central sources if the Slovak government is unable to come to agreement with the Hungarians.

Group of Medical Specialists Leaves for Gulf

AU1101124491 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 10 Jan 91 p 1

[Interview with Tamas Katona, Foreign Ministry political state secretary, by Csaba Nagy in Budapest on 9 January: "The Hungarian Advance Guard Has Set off for the Gulf"; first two paragraphs are NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] A preparatory group in charge of making arrangements for the transportation of Hungarian medical experts to the gulf region set off for Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, 9 January. This information was given to MTI by Colonel Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman of the Defense Ministry.

The task of these officials, who represent both the Defense Ministry and the Foreign Ministry, is to hold coordinating negotiations with the Saudi authorities on the conditions under which the 35-40 Hungarian medical experts and their equipment are going to be transported, and on the circumstances under which the medical group will be working. The Hungarian advance guard also received permission to conduct negotiations with the commanders of the British troops stationed in the region, to discuss the expected duties, accommodation, and working conditions of the Hungarian medical unit. A few hours after the departure of the advance guard, Tamas Katona granted our newspaper an interview.

[Nagy] What is the government's main reason for sending Hungarian soldiers and medical experts to the gulf? What direct or indirect interests lie behind this decision?

[Katona] In a critical war situation—given that we are a country which has suffered under the occupation of both Eastern and Western powers during the course of history—we felt that it was our moral duty to send a symbolic Hungarian contingent to the area. That is why we accepted the United Nations resolution, and our proposal was subsequently supported by two thirds of the Hungarian National Assembly. Incidentally, Prague and Warsaw came to the same decision, based on the same arguments.

[Nagy] In one week's time, the United Nations Security Council ultimatum for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops

will run out, and Hungary is still only sending a preparatory group. It looks as though the government is waiting to see whether there really will be a war in the Middle East.

[Katona] There is no political stalling behind this delay. The sending of our contingent entirely depended on Saudi Arabia's receiving ability. In accordance with their characteristic thoroughness, the Saudis first received the Czechoslovak unit, then the Polish unit, and our turn only came after that. The Hungarian contingent had been ready to leave for a long time, so there is no need for you to look for political motivations behind this delay.

[Nagy] Could you imagine a scenario where Hungarian soldiers would fall in Saudi Arabia?

[Katona] The idea to send combat units stemmed from parliamentary representative Bela Kiraly, not from the government. The final decision, however, is in accordance with the country's possibilities, because we are sending a symbolic military medical group—strictly made up of volunteers—to the Gulf, and that is already a costly action. Naturally, we are also prepared for a possible loss of Hungarian lives in case of war. The volunteers themselves are also aware of this danger. Nevertheless, I am confident that logic will triumph, and that there will be no war in the Middle East.

Government Stance: Not All Arabs Are Terrorists

LD1001234191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2300 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Hungarian Government proclaims that its stance condemning the Iraqi aggression and supporting the UN resolutions are not aimed against the Arab nations the Arab people, but wants to contribute to the elimination of aggression.

The government statement issued late [this] evening condemns every generalization and considers as extraordinarily irresponsible if Arab citizens staying in our homeland are identified with terrorists. The government rejects every manifestation suggesting that support of the UN resolutions or the sending of volunteers in the gulf region may turn the country into the scene of terror acts. [passage omitted]

Police Official on Counterterrorism Measures

LD1001214691 Budapest MTI in English 1246 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 10 (MTI)—The National Police headquarters has no information of terrorists having infiltrated into Hungary recently either via the green border or via passport control, Colonel Mihaly Vorosmarty, deputy head of department at the National Police HQ, says in an interview with Thursday's NEPSZAVA.

With regard to the source of press rumours about an Arab terrorist attack against Hungary, Vorosmarty states, "certain political circles in direct contact with the terrorists threatened the world, and those particular countries which are not supporting their aggressive aspirations.

"Our policy towards terrorist organizations and cells changed after the Republic of Hungary declared it would not tolerate any kind of liberal treatment towards terrorists. I am not saying that the anti-terrorist service of the previous regime was in league with the commandos, but it is a fact that terrorists staying here were treated rather leniently. With the change in political system, the anti-terrorist mechanism has become highly efficient. [no closing quotes as received]

To the question whether the presence of the Hungarian medical unit in the gulf increases the danger of a terrorist attack against Hungary, Mihaly Vorosmarty replies, "The 40 physicians do not represent a military potential, bur rather their presence reflects more a political stance. The possibility that Hungary will become a target cannot be ruled out."

In the interview Vorosmarty says that an anti-terrorist department has recently been set up within the National Police Headquarters responsible for supervising and dealing with such activity, with the operative tasks to be carried out by the special "Komondor" commando unit and information to be supplied by the National Security Office. The Police will enhance the supervision of buildings at risk and draw up separate plans for the defence of places potentially at risk.

President Goncz Meets With Brzezinski

LD1401002191 Budapest MTI in English 1840 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 13 (MTI)—Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, on Sunday met Zbigniew Brzezinski, former American national security adviser, who is currently on a private visit to Hungary.

At the cordial meeting, the sides reviewed the international political situation, discussing in detail the state of the Central European region, and the cooperation possibilities of the countries in this region.

Brzezinsky gave a detailed report about the Middle East policy of the U.S. Administration, and outlined the possibilities to resolve the situation that has come about in the Persian Gulf.

Goncz detailed the Hungarian home policy and economic situation on the request of Brzezinski.

Antall Proposes New Ministerial Appointments

LD1101202191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1900 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Jozsef Antall has informed the National Leadership of the dependent Smallholders

Party [FKgP] about his intention to reshuffle the government. According to that information, the prime minister proposes the appointment of Elemer (Gyergyak) as minister of agriculture, Gyula Kiss as minister of labor, Jozsef Ferenc Nagy as minister without portfolio.

At the same time, he proposes the relieving of Jozsef Ferenc Nagy from his post as minister of agriculture, of Sandor Gyoerivanyi from his post as minister of labor, of Jenoe Gerbovits and Gyula Kiss from their posts as ministers without portfolio.

The prime minister will also provide a post of state secretary in the Prime Ministerial Office for the FKgP. This would be the fifth such political state secretary—there are four already.

The National Leadership has accepted the prime minister's proposals.

Antall Gives Speech; Views Genuine Sovereignty

LD1301094991 Budapest MTI in English 2011 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 12 (MTI) - The "Honved" tradition fostering union and the group of Don brothers-in-arms, cooperating with the Ministry of Defence, held a memorial ceremony on Saturday in Budapest, in honour of the victims of the Don break-through on January 12, 1943.

The mass, celebrated in Matthias church in the Buda castle, was attended by former brothers-in-arms and their family members, and Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, Lieutenant General Kalman Lorincz, commander of the Hungarian Army, and several members of the government.

A memorial session was held following the mass in the institute of military history, under the chairmanship of Brigadier General Kalman Keri. Prime Minister Antall delivered a speech. He drew a historical-political arc between the catastrophe of the Don army and the present [army].

Among others, Antall announced that, as of January 1, 1991, Hungary has no connections whatsoever with the military organization of the Warsaw Treaty, the former subordination and superordination relations have been eliminated. He recalled that Hungary is currently witnessing the days and weeks of dismantling the CMEA, and this will be the first time since the German occupation on March 19, 1944, that the nation will become genuinely sovereign, without the occupation of foreign troops.

The prime minister also said the government had accepted to administer historical justice and to uphold the country's operation in a way that the change in system be realized amidst peaceful circumstances. At the same time, he noted that this is frequently accompanied by unpopular measures, and sacrifices. Antall asked that the tremendous burdens that inflict more and more people each day not be attributed to the present government and the present parliament.

Increase in Unemployment Rate Noted

LD1001213191 Budapest MTI in English 1248 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 10, 1991 (MTI-ECONEWS)—According to preliminary figures, 80,000 people were out of work at the end of December, of whom 65,000 were receiving unemployment benefit, the Latest report of the national workforce centre reveals.

That figure gives an unemployment rate of 1.7 per cent.

Estimates put the number of unemployed at around 70,000 in the month of November.

At the end of October, 60,997 people were out of work, corresponding to an unemployment rate of 1.4 per cent.

At the end of 1989, the unemployment rate was 0.5 per cent, with around 25,000 registered unemployed.

The number of unemployed is expected to reach 200,000 by the end of this year and some 15 billion forints (214 million USD) [U.S. dollars] will be required for unemployment benefit payments.

Current National Unemployment Trends Reviewed

AU1101113391 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 4 Jan 91 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] Presently, 1.5 percent of Hungary's active work force is unemployed. Compared to foreign statistics, this figure is not too alarming. If one examines the growth rate of Hungarian unemployment figures, however, the picture becomes more disturbing. Two years ago, the unemployment rate only reached 0.5 percent. The number of people looking for jobs is growing at an alarming rate in Hungary's 200 employment agencies. During the first quarter of 1990, 107,000 people came to these offices, but during the third quarter of the year, 170,000 job seekers turned to these agencies for help.

As far as Budapest job seekers are concerned, unskilled manual workers and technocrats with secondary or higher education degrees find themselves in the most hopeless situation. There are still a few jobs for economists and semi-skilled workers. There are already seven employment agencies in operation in Budapest, and another three offices will be opened shortly. (So far, that is our safest employment tip.) During the third quarter of 1991, there were some 10,000 registered unemployed in Budapest. If one examines the figures for the entire year, one finds that manual workers account for 45 percent of all the unemployed people in the capital, whereas white-collar workers account for 55 percent. Among the educated unemployed, 37 percent have a secondary education degree, and 63 percent have a higher education degree. On average, there are 27 jobs for every 100 applicants. For manual workers, there are 47 jobs for

every 100 applicants, for people with secondary education degrees there are 11 jobs, and for people with higher education degrees there are 5 jobs.

Until now, enterprises had to give a month's notice to the people they wanted to dismiss. At its meeting at the end of December, the Hungarian Government raised this period of notice to three months. The previous regime was formally still working, and enterprises were only giving fragmented information about actual changes. Experts, therefore, think that the three-month period of notice is illusory; given the current situation, who would dare to say, three months in advance, how many people they will have to dismiss from certain posts?

Returning to national figures, it can be seen that only 47,000 unemployed have received benefits; as for those who have been unemployed for more than a year, only 2,500 have received benefits. The number of job seekers has been consistently high in the counties of Borsod-Abauj-Zemple and Fejer. Employment agencies have a lot to do in Baranya, Bekes, Hajdu-Bihar, Bacs-Kiskun, and Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, but fortunately, employers still have some jobs to offer in these areas. Employment agencies have less to do in Veszprem, Tolna, and Komarom-Esztergom, but enterprises have little to offer for job seekers in these areas, anyway. [passage omitted]

Government Communique Details Price Increases

LD1201031991 Budapest MTI in English 2109 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 11 (MTI)—The government has submitted a bill on official price raises, and social-welfare measures, to parliament.

According to the communique issued, postal service fares will go up from January 14 by an average of 40 percent, drinking water rates and sewage fees to be paid by the population by on averagd 100 percent. From February 1, railway fares will go up by an average 80 percent and long-distance bus transport by 55 percent. Local telephone call rates will rise from 2 to 5 Forints. Domestic long-distance calls will be 46 percent more expensive, those to Western Europe by 15 to 20 percent.

Local governments are to decide about the degree of rent increases and local public transport fares.

The price of cars from the CMEA countries will increase more significantly, according to the communique. However, cars with catalytic converters will be granted customs concessions and will be exempt from excise duty.

The price of medicine will also go up, and the price of combustibles, piped gas and district-heating will also have to be raised to a large extent, at the end of the heating season.

According to the calculations of the government, the rise in the price level in the first third of 1991 will be relatively high as compared to December, 1990, standing at some 18 to 20 percent. After this, the rate of inflation will moderate, and the rise in the price level will return to the monthly 1-1.5 percent rate characteristic of the corresponding period of 1990.

The rise in the price level calculated for the first third of the year will increase the population's expenditures by an average monthly 850-900 Forints per person. As a consequence of the central measures, the monthly surplus expenditures of a four-member family will vary between 2,500-4,500 Forints, depending on the consumption structure.

Apart from the price hikes, the burdens of the population are also increased by the rise in interests on loans granted for flats, the rise in insurance fees, and the local taxes expected to be introduced over the later months of the year, which are to be decided by the local governments.

Income compensations per item will not be directly linked to the central price measures.

The government expects that, on average, the budgetary institutions will be able to raise wages by 20 percent. From January 1, the monthly 1,000-forint tax base deduction granted so far to families with three or more children will be extended to families with one and two children, until the age of six. Pensions are to go up by an average 24 percent, family allowances by an average 350 Forints (about 15 percent) for each child.

The 1991 budget ensured 12,600 million forints to the employment fund to handle unemployment, and 9,000 milion forints to the solidarity fund.

Alongside the standard social-welfare assistance due the local governments (which is 3,000 forints per active inhabitant on a yearly level), the local governments are to receive 3.8 billion Forints in budgetary support for child raising aid. Alongside this, the 1991 state budget envisages 5 billion forints for local governments to complement their own resources, in the interest that they provide assistance to those in need to paying the raised installment of loans granted for flats, and for young married couples to build or purchase their first home.

Reportage on Reactions to Events in Lithuania

Joint Sejm-Senate Statement

LD1101184491 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1745 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Remarks by Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz and unidentified reporter at a Sejm session in Warsaw—live]

[Text] [Kozakiewicz] I recommence deliberations, please take your seats. May it please the House! I desire to inform you, above all, that our debaters are being listened to by Mr. Czeslaw Okinczyc, deputy of the Lithuanian parliament. [applause]

The Council of Elders, in association with the events in Lithuania, presents a draft of the following statement, drawn up by the Senate and Sejm Foreign Affairs Commission. This is a joint statement.

The Sejm and Senate of the republic receive with the gravest disquiet the news flowing in from Vilnius about the development of the situation in Lithuania. Soviet Armed Forces are occupying buildings in the capital by force. The parliament chosen in free elections is threatened. There are reports of fatalities. In this situation, we declare the readiness to grant Lithuania all humanitarian aid. The Sejm and Senate of the republic confirm their decisive stance on the right of the Lithuanians and other nations to freedom.

Lithuania was an independent state, one of those whose existence was interrupted by the infamous Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. This is a problem of international significance. The use of force to stifle the seeking of freedom of nations must recall in Polish society the blackest memories and the worst fears for the further development of the situation. Poland remains most vitally interested in the maintenance of peace and tolerance in our region. Such a state of affairs is in the interest of all of Europe.

The Sejm and Senate of the republic feel that all matters of dispute should be resolved with the assistance of solely peaceful means, especially through talks and negotiations between the interested sides. We expect from the highest authorities of the USSR the keeping of the declarations made on the creation of peaceful conditions for nations deciding their own political existence.

Who is in favor of passing this declaration, please press the button and raise your hand.

[Reporter] There are 293 deputies in favor of passing the joint declaration of the Sejm and Senate, there are three against, and 10 deputies have abstained.

[Kozakiewicz] The Sejm has passed the declaration by a decisive majority. [applause]

Senate Group To Issue Statement

LD1101174391 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1658 GMT 11 Jan 91

["Text" of statement by Andrzej Kern, member of the Polish Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group, at the Sejm session in Warsaw—live]

[Text] [Kernz] Andrzej Kern, Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group. I would like to address you concerning a certain request and a certain appeal. The signals we are getting from Lithuania are even more threatening. A fire is starting. A country which directly borders us is threatened with serious things. In (?Vilnius), they have attained freedom for themselves. It could be that the coming hours will decide the fate of this brave little country. From the signals that are getting through to us, we know that the Poles, and Lithuanians of Polish origin have forgotten their squabbles and are uniting with the Lithuanians in defense of supreme values. At this moment, we need a government. Its decisions might have some influence on events. Perhaps we will be able, through the decisions of our government, to ameliorate the sufferings of our Lithuanian brothers. In this situation, I appeal to you, to my friends, to forsake your speeches and to end the debate at this point, and I request that we move on to the appointment of the new government after the break. [applause]

[Dobielinska-Eliszewska, deputy speaker] Thank you very much. I would like to inform the esteemed chamber that the Sejm and Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, in association with the situation in Lithuania that has been spoken of already and that you raised, is preparing a statement. We will return to this matter after the break. Deliberations of the [Sejm] Council of Elders are in Progress at this moment, (?whence) this matter will also be presented to the chamber for decision.

Foreign Ministry Makes Statement

LD1101134491 Warsaw PAP in English 1242 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Statement issued by Foreign Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 11—As a neighbouring country, Poland follows with concern the development of the situation in Lithuania. Poland does not influence issues which belong to internal competences of whatever country, including Lithuania.

The Government of the Republic of Poland has rendered its support for justified aspirations of the Lithuanian nation.

Poland remains lively interested in preserving peace and tolerance in our region. Such a state lies in the interest of Europe as a whole.

The government of the Republic of Poland believes that all controversial issues should be decided without the use

of force, exclusively through peaceful means, especially by talks and negotiations between the interested sides.

Warsaw Radio Summarizes Events

LD1301135891 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1105 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] We interrupt our program to bring you the latest news from Lithuania:

TASS reported the introduction of a curfew in Vilnius and Kovno. The radio station [name indistinct], which has been occupied by Soviet units, reported that the curfew was introduced at the request of the Committee for National Salvation. This committee was set up on 11 January on the initiative of pro-Moscow Communists in Lithuania.

It was also reported that General Vladimir Uschkopchyk, head of the Vilnius garrison, was named Army commander of Lithuania. He said on the radio that he announced the regulations of a state of emergency in the name of the aforementined Committee for National Salvation.

The Lithuanian parliament, which is in constant session, adopted a resolution ordering the Lithuanian police, which is defending state buildings, to offer resistance to the aggressors. The government of the republic, according to Lithuanian radio, continues its work without a break. All the organs of executive power are obliged to execute the recommendations of this government alone. Any other government in Lithuania will be illegal, and its recommendations will not have any power which would be binding to Lithuanian citizens. Just in case, it is expected that a government in exile will be formed.

The spokeman of the Lithuanian parliament said that 13 people died last night during an assault on the radio and television building in Vilnius, and more than 40 were injured. It is estimated that during the crisis about 145 have been killed so far. The majority of the dead are young people shot by Soviet paratroopers. Others met their deaths by being run over by tanks. More than 10 bodies of young men are currently in the city's morgue, said the parliament's spokesman. One of the dead is a little girl who was run over by a tank.

Here is further information regarding the situation in Lithuania:

Representatives of the 16 NATO states met at an extraordinary session. A communique on the events in Lithuania will be made public today.

Radio Vilnius, after a break of several hours during the night, began broadcasting its programs early in the morning, thanks to a transmitter positioned on the parliament building. Members of the Lithuanian parliament are calling on the inhabitants of Vilnius not to submit to the orders of the pro-Moscow Committee for National Salvation.

The German Government set up a special group to assess events in Lithuania, and the head of West German diplomacy, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, called in the Soviet Ambassador in Bonn for a talk.

[Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish at 1155 GMT on 13 January carries the following voice recording of Lithuanian Foreign Minister Saudargas, in Lithuanian with superimposed Polish translation: "In the case of the Lithuanian Government and Parliament, for one reason or another, not being able to function, I am obliged by the Lithuanian parliament, in its voting today at 0800 GMT (0600 GMT) this morning, to set up a government in exile."]

Government Confers

LD1301232791 Warsaw PAP in English 2201 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—The Presidium of the Polish Government held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki tonight to discuss the events in Lithuania before Monday's inaugural meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The issue of Lithuania is to top the agenda of the government meeting tomorrow.

Mazowiecki Appeals for Peace

LD1401012791 Warsaw PAP in English 1821 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—"At this difficult moment for Lithuania, I am voicing full solidarity with the Lithuanian nation's struggle for freedom. I voice solidarity with the parliament and government of the Lithuanian Republic. I appeal to President Gorbachev to halt the military action in Lithuania. It is never too late to start political negotiations instead of bloodshed," reads a statement by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, chairman of the Democratic Union.

Groups Criticize Baltic Events

LD1401012591 Warsaw PAP in English 1945 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan, 13—The Soviet intervention in Lithuania and especially in Vilnius, has stirred great concern in Poland. Statements and resolutions are issued by political and social organizations. Many of them reiterate the appeal for quick humanitarian aid for the Lithuanian citizens.

"We firmly condemn the brutal force which Mikhail Gorbachev decided to use against Lithuania striving to regain independence after years of Soviet occupation," reads a statement of the Helsinki Committee in Poland.

The Katyn Committee and the World Union of Home Army (AK) Soldiers have announced a protest march to be staged in front of the Soviet Embassy in Warsaw on January 15 at 3 p.m. to protest against Soviet violence

against the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia and against Moscow's sanctioning the results of the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact.

The Political Council and Secretariat of the Christian Democratic Party have adopted a resolution in which they mention with indignation the violation of the rights of the Lithuanian people to self-determination, independence, and sovereignty of their state.

The Confederation for an Independence Poland KPN in Krakow sent a protest to the local Soviet consulate.

"We expect strong political declarations on the Lithuanian question from the new Polish Government," reads a statement of Independence Organizations in the Malopolska (smaller Poland) area.

Leaders of the Polish Scout Union ZHP have also called for solidarity with the Lithuanians.

"We are in solidarity with Lithuania in the dramatic moment of its history. We condemn the intervention of Soviet troops. The forum of the Democratic Right (FPD) will take part in the campaign of humanitarian aid for Lithuania," reads a statement issued by the FPD.

"We appeal to all society for active and speedy support for the heroic resistance of the Lithuanians," reads an appeal of the Political Council of the Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN). The KPN appealed to all Poles residing in Lithuania to support the struggle in defence of the republic.

"The stifling of independence strivings in the Baltic states through force must be condemned by the global community and the governments of respective states," reads a statement issued by the Congress of Christian Democratic Parties holding a meeting in Poznan today. The Democratic Centre in Lodz called for humanitarian aid for Lithuania.

A mass was held for Lithuania and those who lost their lives in Vilnius last night in Punsk, Suwalki Voivodship, which has the biggest Lithuanian community in Poland. Prayers were also held for Lithuania at the Wloclawek Cathedral.

Citizens Committees Issue Protest

LD1301182291 Warsaw PAP in English 1415 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—The National Conference of Citizens Committees holds a conference here today. The delegates have congratulated Lech Walesa on his assuming the top office in Poland and adopted a resolution on the recent developments in Lithuania.

The resolution voices a strong protest against the violation of state sovereignty and civil freedom of the Lithuanian nation by the Soviet troops.

The resolution asks the Polish people for humanitarian help for the Lithuanians and the Polish Government has been asked to start more decisive measures toward extending political support to the independent-minded effort of the Lithuanian nation.

Statement Detailed

LD1301222891 Warsaw PAP in English 1838 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—On January 11, 1991, Soviet troops started hostilities against the Lithuanian Republic and in this connection delegates to the National Conference of Citizens Committees, gathered here today, state the following:

—Polish society has never recognized the provisions of the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact as binding and Lithuania remains a sovereign state in its consciousness;

—Polish society received the rebirth of the Lithuanian statehood that took place in 1990 with great joy and followed its development with all friendliness;

—Irrespective of all mutual disputes and claims, Lithuania remains Poland's nearest neighbour and its fate cannot be indifferent to Poles;

—Taking this into consideration, we cannot leave the events that started in Vilnius on January 11, 1991 unmentioned. We cannot treat them otherwise but as a brutal aggression by a great power against a weaker neighbouring state. This is a sign of political arrogance, all the more outrageous and cynical that the aggressor is led by a Nobel Peace Prize winner, a man whose political talents gained recognition also in Poland.

We protest with all strength against the Soviet aggression.

We think that it bring disgrace to the USSR and deprives its leader of credibility.

We think that it poses a threat also to the Republic of Poland.

We think that it is high time that the Polish Government officially recognize the independence of the Lithuanian Republic.

Long live free and independent Lithuania.

Demonstrators Support Lithuania

LD1401000691 Warsaw PAP in English 1905 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—Demonstrators who gathered in front of the Soviet Embassy here today to call for Lithuania's independence chanted slogans "Free Lithuania," "Soviets Go Home," and "Give Your Nobel to Husayn."

The demonstration was organized by the Citizen's Movement-Democratic Action (ROAD).

Adam Michnik and Zbigniew Bujak emphasized that the picket was not anti-Russian but its purpose was to show solidarity with the independence-minded Lithuania.

Vice Speaker of the Senate Zofia Kuratowska appealed for humanitarian aid for the Lithuanian friends, especially their children. Raising money for this purpose has started.

Lithuanian flags were hung on the embassy's entrance gates.

Thousands of candles were lit during an evening manifestation in front of the Soviet Embassy in Warsaw. Warsaw residents who arrived in throngs paid homage to the residents of Vilnius killed by Soviet soldiers during their attack on the radio-television station. A cross was formed on the pavement from the burning candles and prayers were said over it.

The protesters raised shouts of "Freedom for Lithuania" and "Down With Soviet Occupation." Leszek Moczulski, the leader of the KPN Confederation for an Independent Poland, appealed for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Taxi drivers joined the event, driving slowly in a motorcade in front of the embassy and honking. Money was collected throughout the event for aid to the Lithuanians.

Demonstration at USSR Embassy

LD1301173991 Warsaw PAP in English 1410 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—Several hundred demonstrants belonging or sympathizing with the R.O.A.D. (Citizens Movement—Democratic Action) as well as a group representing the Lithuanian community in Poland, today gathered in front of the Soviet Embassy here flashing streamers which read: "Freedom to Lithuania," "Gorbachev—Nobel 90, Husayn—Nobel 91."

A leading R.O.A.D. activist Halina Bortnowska told PAP "We hope the lack of President Lech Walesa's statement on the situation in Lithuania is just a delay not negligence for which we could pay much in history."

Another demonstration in front of the Soviet Embassy and pickets of the U.S. Embassy are planned for January 16 to elicit greater support from President Bush for the fighting Lithuania. On that day representatives of the Lithuanian Social-Cultural Association will read out their statement.

Soviet Envoy 'Summoned' To Foreign Ministry

LD1101221191 Warsaw PAP in English 2041 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 11—Tonight Acting Foreign Minister Jan Majewski summoned Soviet Charge d'Affaires in Poland Lev Klepatskiy to the Polish Foreign Ministry.

The talk focused on the situation in Lithuania and Poland's concern over this situation.

Rejects Lithuania, Gulf Linkage

LD1201010291 Warsaw PAP in English 2310 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 11—Following a meeting with Polish Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Jan Majewski, the Soviet charge d'affaires in Poland Lev Klepatzky told PAP in part:

"The problem of Lithuania is quite difficult but can be solved. Poland is interested in solving this problem through peaceful means. We jointly stressed that precisely such a solution corresponds to our good-neighbourly relations. I told Minister Majewski that the president of the Soviet Union was acting according to the law, and the order he gave recently stems from the fact that the law had been breached in the Lithuanian Republic.

"I pointed out that military units have been directed only to Lithuania and not Latvia or Estonia exactly because the leaders of these republics committed themselves to solve the same problems which Lithuania experiences through their own means and in keeping with the law. I am particularly referring to military conscription.

"The stand of the Soviet leadership on the issue of Lithuania's independence is unequivocal. We favour an expansion of the independence of the republics but under the law binding in the Soviet Union. If the population of the Republic expresses through a referendum a will to secede from the Soviet Union, then of course this will will be respected.

"I do not see a link between the conflict in Lithuania and the increase in tension in the Persian Gulf," the Soviet diplomat said.

Lithuanian Deputy Asks Poles for Help

LD1101193291 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1830 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] During the afternoon debates in the Senate, the floor was taken by the Lithuanian representatives, Czeslaw Okinczyc.

[Begin Okinczyc recording] We Poles in Lithuania were able to hold our heads high, after years of being oppressed and persecuted. We felt again that we were the sons [long pause broken by sobs], we felt again the sons of a great nation. Poland gave a beginning to the autumn of nations, the Polish succcess caused the Lithuanian dreams of freedom to become real.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen! I arrived here from Lithuania to ask you to save Lithuanian freedom. When freedom was being taken away from you 10 years ago, the world cried crocodile tears, yet no one rushed forward with real help. Poles know very well what the world's silence means. So many times their interests were sacrificed on the altar of global interests. Will

they—having regained freedom—lose their moral sensitivity? Will they remain silent in the name of superior interests?

Lithuania is today looking to Poland with great hope. In April 1990, when I appeared at the second Congress of Solidarity, I asked that Poland help Lithuania to return to Europe. Today I ask you to help Lithuania survive.

Your are free, but you must remember that your freedom too will be in danger if you remain silent when it is being taken away from your neighbors.

We are Christians and we know that we all have a right to freedom. We are Christians and that is why making a decision is dictated, not by cold calculations, but by our conscience. That is what our Pope, John Paul II, was talking about in his message for the World Day of Peace.

Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Thanks Poles for Support

LD1201200291 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1830 GTM 12 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer] Lithuanian Foreign Minister Saudargas arrived in Warsaw on an unexpected visit. He was received by Mieczyslaw Gil, chairman of the Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group (OKP).

[Begin Saudargas recording] Before my departure—I left last night—there was a very decisive mood in Lithuania, to meet all attacks, and to endure until the end. The Lithuanians will defend the parliament building like a fortress to the end. If the Lithuanian Government will not be able to function any longer—then beyond the border of Lithuania.

As you see, gentlemen, this goes precisely through Poland. I wished to address to the citizens of the Polish Republic and thank you very much, in the name of the Lithuanian Government and the whole Lithuanian nation, for the constant support of our struggle. [end recording]

Says Stalinism Still Alive

LD1301173691 Warsaw PAP in English 1408 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—The drama of today's night shows that Stalinism is still alive and it shows the world that unpunished crimes can revive. Nobody is protected from this, including Western countries that present Nobel Peace Prizes to criminals, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas said during press conference here today.

He said that this morning the Lithuanian parliament authorized him to form a government in exile should the Lithuanian Government and parliament be unable to function for some reasons. Saudargas makes the exercise of these powers conditional on the developments in Lithuania.

Conveying last minute reports on the situation in Lithuania, Deputy to the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Czeslaw Okinczyc said that according to reports that came from Lithuania bodies of the killed people were dressed in uniforms of Soviet soldiers. He said also that talks with a delegation of the Soviet of the Federation at the Soviet president that arrived from Moscow to Vilnius had been under way at the Lithuanian parliament since 1230 hours of the Lithuanian time. [sentence as received]

'No Need' for Exile Government

LD1301223191 Warsaw PAP in English 1948 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas and deputy to the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Czeslaw Okinczyc met twice with journalists today.

The evening press conference was held in the so-called information headquarters organized here today.

Czeslaw Okinczyc said: At 1800 hours local time there is no need to think about a Lithuanian government-in-exile.

Minister Saudargas stressed that the Lithuanian Government and parliament were still functioning and that it was too early to make use of the powers entrusted to him by the Supreme Soviet to form an exile government.

The Lithuanian foreign minister said that the aggression against his country was an entirely unlawful act and a crime that should be punished. It has materialized probably because Stalinist crimes were not punished, he said.

Asked about foreign assistance, for example in the form of resolutions, Saudargas said it was a sufficient assistance from a world which grants Nobel Prizes to criminals. Earlier the world cheered Lithuania, the leader of democracy in the empire, now the world watches how democracy born in Athens dies in Vilnius. "If it dies, I doubt whether anyone in the West will have the right to pronounce the word democracy," Saudargas underlined.

Lithuanians in Country Allowed Refugee Status

LD1401012891 Warsaw PAP in English 1841 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—Asked whether Lithuanian citizens staying in Poland can count on gaining refugee status if the Soviet troops continue their operations in Lithuania, Colonel Zbigniew Skoczylas, the Plenipotentiary for Refugee Affairs told PAP:

"Yes. On this matter they should turn up at the office of the Plenipotentiary for Refugees in Warsaw."

Lithuanian Border Crossing Continues Normally

LD1401010791 Warsaw PAP in English 1521 GMT 13 Jan 91a

[Text] Suwalki, Jan. 13—The two-way traffic was going on normally at the Polish-Lithuanian border crossing in Ogrodniki-Lazdijaj today. One could enter Lithuania

without any queue, while on the Lithuanian side one had to wait for up to six hours (chiefly due to exact checking).

Lithuanians coming to Poland said about increased checking of cars with Soviet licence plates. At the same time, Sunday reports contradict Saturday reports on staffing the border crossing by Soviet soldiers and removing Lithuanian customs officers from there. It turns out that the staff of border soldiers at the Lazdijaj crossing today was the same as so far and that the Sajudis teams continued to carry out customs clearance.

A late train from Leningrad to Warsaw via Vilnius with about 200 passengers came to Bialystok at noon. The passengers say that one cannot reach Vilnius by any means of transport. Military posts seek young recruits. The travellers were forbidden to get out of the carriages at the almost empty Vilnius railway station when the train made a stop-over there.

Red Cross Relief Readied for Lithuania

LD1401011991 Warsaw PAP in English 1903 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 13—The first convoy carrying Polish Red Cross aid for Lithuania is expected to leave Warsaw about 10 p.m. tonight. The convoy will include two lorries loaded with dressing materials, surgical gloves, clothes, and baby food, Leonard Furga of the Polish Red Cross main board told PAP.

Polish people wishing to help the Lithuanians have been coming to the Polish Red Cross headquarters in Warsaw since the early morning today. They raised over 4 million zlotys plus small sums in rubles and U.S. dollars.

The central blood bank confirmed that first voluntary blood donors registered today.

Youth of the Democratic Union raised some 8 million zlotys in Krakow to aid Lithuania.

Lower House Approves New Cabinet Ministers

LD1201181991 Warsaw PAP in English 1631 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 12—This morning the lower house of the Polish Parliament resumed its debates, held in the presence of Poland's President Lech Walesa, to approve of the new government of Premier Jan Krzysztof Bielecki with 272 votes for, 4 votes against, and 62 abstentions.

Following is the new Polish cabinet:

Prime Minister	Jan Krzysztof Bielecki
Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister	Leszek Balcerowicz
Labour and Social Policy	Michal Boni
Justice	Wieslaw Chrzanowski
Head of the Central Planning Office	Jerzy Eysymontt
Spatial Development and Construction	Adam Glapinski
National Education	Robert Glebocki
National Defence	Piotr Klodziejczyk
Foreign Economic Relations	Dariusz Ledworowski
Ownership Transformations	Janusz Lewandowski
Internal Affairs	Henryk Majewski
Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry	Maciej Nowicki
Culture and Art	Marek Rostworowski
Foreign Affairs	Krzysztof Skubiszewski
Health and Social Welfare	Wladyslaw Sidorowicz
Communications	Jerzy Slezak
Agriculture and Food Economy	Adam Tanski
Transport and Maritime Economy	Ewaryst Waligorski
Industry	Andrzej Zawislak
Head of the Office of the Council of Ministers	Krzysztof Zabinski

Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz congratulated the newly appointed ministers and assured the cabinet of the Sejm's friendly support for it.

Later in the day Kozakiewicz handed over nomination acts to the members of the new council of ministers, stressing that the results of voting in the lower house of the parliament were positive for it.

Spokesman Views Soviet Troop Withdrawal Timetable

LD1101225191 Warsaw PAP in English 1538 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 11—"Our stand is clear—we wish for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland to begin before the start of the transit of Soviet troops from Germany. We want the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland to be completed by the end of this year," spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry Wladyslaw Klaczynski told PAP today.

Both those operations may coincide in time, but should be carried out on the basis of a Polish-Soviet agreement on withdrawal and transit of these troops. Currently both sides are holding talks on this matter.

Poland is a sovereign state and all movements of Soviet troops fall under Polish jurisdiction. Only Poland may undertake a decision whether and on what conditions such movements can take place in Poland, said Klaczynski.

No USSR Military Traffic Reportedly Authorized

LD1101230291 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Franciszek Puchala, deputy chief of General Staff of the Polish Army, has reported that no movements of any kind of Soviet military motor columns have been authorized on Polish territory.

Soviet Troop Talks Show 'No Breakthrough'

LD1201010891 Warsaw PAP in English 2253 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 11—There is no breakthrough but progress was made, is how deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's European Department and chairman of the Polish inter-ministerial delegation Grzegorz Kostrzewa Zorbas summed up the third round of Polish-Soviet talks on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland and on their transit from Germany that ended here today.

A treaty on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland has in principle been prepared for signing. A date of starting and ending this operation is the question that has to be agreed.

Poland adopted a stand that the operation of the evacuation transit should not be started earlier than the operation of withdrawal from Poland.

Asked to comment on an article in the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Soviet Army daily suggesting that troops in Poland should not be withdrawn before pulling troops out from Germany, the representative of the Polish Foreign Ministry said that the stand was absolutely unacceptable and that this was not a stand of the Soviet Government.

Commander of Gulf Contingent Interviewed

AU1401151091 Warsaw POLSKA ZBROJNA in Polish 7 Jan 91 pp 1,5

[Interview with General of Brigade Bernard Wozniecki, commander of the Polish contingent sent to the Gulf, by Jerzy Rajch, place and date not given: "Right Now We Do Not Foresee Any Expansion of Our Involvement in the Conflict Zone" —first paragraph is POLSKA ZBROJNA introduction]

[Text] Brigadier General Bernard Wozniecki, appointed by Minister of National Defense Vice Admiral Piotr Kolodziejczyk to be commander of the Polish contingent in Saudi Arabia, left for Saudi Arabia on 6 January. Before he left, a POLSKA ZBROJNA reporter held a brief interview with him.

[Rajch] Our group of between 100 and 200 medical personnel is flying to the conflict zone in the Persian Gulf in a few days' time. Two Polish ships, the Wodnik and Piast, are also expected to sail there in the middle of January. You will be there first. Is this for any special reasons?

[Wozniecki] Not particularly. As commander, I will be there first, because that is logical and expedient, so that, as supervisor, I may welcome the Polish team, perform final adjustments, and acquaint myself with the situation. I have a few days in which to do that, and I will spend them holding talks with our hosts and with the still-unofficial Polish diplomatic representative there.

[Rajch] What possibilities and powers will you have at your disposal, General?

[Wozniecki] On the basis of the agreement signed between representatives of both sides, i.e. the Saudi and Polish Governments, our contingent is at the disposal of the commander of the Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia. We will perform specified medical tasks for that country. There is also a possibility of working for other coalition forces, after this has been discussed with me. As commander of the contingent, I am responsible for all operational, logistical, personnel, financial, administrative, and technical matters.

[Rajch] Who will pay for the refitting and equipping of the two ships, the voyage, the air transport, and the maintenance costs of the Poles in the Saudi peninsula?

[Wozniecki] The Ministry of National Defense has paid for modernizing and equipping the ships, but the expenses will be reimbursed by the Saudi Government. All other costs, including wages, military equipment, medical equipment, and communications will be paid for directly out of the Saudi budget.

[Rajch] The prospect of spending six months in a country so far from Poland, a country with which we have no diplomatic ties, with a different climate, and one in danger of war at any moment, could cause trepidation and even fear of undertaking an uncertain journey. Was there any trouble with putting together the medical teams and specialists?

[Wozniecki] Yes, there were. The main problem was the short time in which to make essential preparations and recruit the right people. For we have sent the kind of specialists the Saudis wanted. A few people refused to go through fear or uncertainty. But all those who did go or are about to go have volunteered, aware of course of the risk of a possible war. For their part, our hosts have assured us of good conditions and maximum protection. The medical team that will leave for the Gulf any day now will work in two military hospitals away from the front line of a possible armed conflict, located in Jubail and Hafr el Baten [names of cities as published]. Therefore, our personnel require a basic knowledge of English to work with local doctors.

[Rajch] Does the Polish side envisage an expansion of our involvement in the conflict zone?

[Wozniecki] At the moment we envisage neither an expansion of Polish involvement nor an extension of our stay. However, anything is possible. It is difficult to forecast the development of the situation. Only the future, the course of events, and an escalation of the conflict can influence specific moves. That is up to the politicians.

[Rajch] You are the head of the Ministry of National Defense cabinet. What made you become commander of the Polish contingent?

[Wozniecki] That is a question for the minister of national defense, because he appointed me. I think it is because of my years of work in the Arab countries. Although this will be my first visit to Saudi Arabia, I have already been to Iraq and Kuwait. My knowledge of

the situation there and of foreign languages was also not without significance when reaching the decision.

[Rajch] Thank you. I wish the Polish contingent good luck and a safe return at the end of its mission.

Walesa Meets With Former U.S. Adviser, Envoy

LD1201232491 Warsaw PAP in English 1558 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 12—President Lech Walesa met here today once again with former U.S. Presidents National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and U.S. Ambassador to Poland Thomas W. Simons.

Brzezinski said after the meeting that he told the president about his impressions from his current visit to Poland during which he held a number of talks with top Polish politicians. The two also discussed international developments.

Ambassador Simons said that on behalf of President Bush he conveyed to President Walesa words of thanks for his letter on the Gulf crisis, in which Walesa expressed full support for the implementation of the UN resolution.

Today, Brzezinski also met with Deputy Premier Leszek Balcerowicz with whom he discussed developments in Central and Eastern Europe and the implementation of the programme of reconstruction and stabilization of Poland's economy.

Prime Minister Bielecki Addresses Sejm on Economy

LD1201145191 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0903 GMT 12 Jan 91

["Text" of speech by Prime Minister Jan Krzyszstof Bielecki to the Sejm in Warsaw—live]

[Text] Speaker, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: Yesterday, I listened with attention to all voices on the debate on my proposals. I thank you for your words of support, and I am grateful for the criticism. I think that the the exchange of views, which lasted many hours, was the latest important event in the development of the young Polish democracy. The government that I lead will strive to use in its everyday work all the remarks and proposals put forward during the debate. Hard and collective work is before us. Democracy and market economy, this is our program. There is a need for will and consistency in implementing the tasks that make themselves apparent in the everyday existence of the citizens, and which could signal changes for the better. So, with even greater gratitude, I receive the approval of the Sejm commissions and floor groups for candidates to ministerial posts. I receive this as an expression of confidence in the government selected using the criterion of competence, in a team of ministers who understand each other within the framework of a common philosophy of reform.

May it please the House: I already took some steps announced in my proposals, even before the confirmation by the Sejm of the composition of the cabinet. One of them has been a decision on the beginning of the demonopolization of the Committee for Radio and Television. This is an expression of the importance I attach to normalizing the mass media. Their independence and professionalism would be the best method for regaining the media's credibility and public confidence in them. Ladies and gentlemen: Yesterday's speech by Professor Wieczorkiewicz, a deputy of the Democratic Left Parliamentary Floor Group, on the causes of the crisis and problems which have to be resolved as a matter of urgency makes it unnecessary for me to give a detailed listing of the goals and principles of our economic policy. The discussion as a whole, in spite of many critical statements, has proved that there is no inconsistency between the will of the Sejm and the stand of the government as regards the need for anti-crisis actions leading to development of enterpreneurship.

A clear argument concerning strategy, however, has taken shape. The essence of the dilemma around which the discussion was focusing are the following questions: Where is it better to invest labor and money? Can we enliven the economy, increase its effectiveness, and stimulate the economic activity of citizens? Should we do it by the reanimation of the current structures, maintaining the state ownership monopoly, or maybe—with an awareness of the risks involved—should we be in favor of its restructuring? I am convinced that it si a waste of money to uphold and finance any loss-making structures of the economy. It is a road to nowhere; it is putting the problem aside and it is a barrier for reforms.

Privatization is not an ideological choice, as was suggested by some deputies. It is a necessary condition for the rebirth of the market economy in Poland. Pragmatism is our motto, and from it ensue tactics for the reconciliation of long-term aims and current realities.

We, therefore, realize only too well the economic dangers and social effects of ownership transformations. In connection with this we understand that the state in today's Polish conditions must help build the market. Bearing this in mind, we attach great importance to carrying our coherent industrial and agricultural policies, as well as a policy to stimulate entrepreneurship.

May it please the House: I noted carefully all the remarks and doubts voiced during yesterday's discussion. I heard numerous opinions urging an increase in the participation of the state in the process of reforms. My thinking goes along the same lines, and the chamber strengthened my opinion. The state intervention is necessary only where it speeds up the reconstruction of market institutions, and where, in the process of transformation, negative results might temporarily occur.

I expect important solutions as early as the first quarter of this year. I hope that by this time, the issue of the reduction of our debt will have been arranged with our creditors. I hope to receive funds from the World Bank

which will go toward the restructuring of industry and its privatization. I also expect that funds will be available for the creation of local labor exchange offices which will allow the state to carry out the active policy of employment which was mentioned in my proposals. Also in the first quarter, the government intends to implement telecommunications plans, as well as plans connected with facilitating the financing of housing by means of the introduction of mortages.

A separate effort of the government and Polish diplomacy will be directed at clearing the path to associating Poland with the EC. Our expectation, not without ground, has been that we will be able to cooperate more closely with our western partners in the task of rebuilding the Polish economy.

Ladies and gentlemen: The government fully appreciates the importance of agriculture and it is aware of the scale of its problems. In the very near future we are going to put before the parliament a self-correction of a draft budget, increasing the subsidies to be made available for the development of this sector of the economy. Replying to a proposal, submitted yesterday, for creating a post of second deputy premier in charge of agriculture, I would like to emphasize that I understand the motives behind the Sejm commission's proposal. The government understands the difficult problems of the Polish countryside, and I myself, as the prime minister, give an assurance that they will be the subject of constant attention on the part of the Council of Ministers.

I also fully appreciate the concern with which the deputies spoke yesterday about the needs of culture. The development of the institutions of private patronage obviously does not mean a complete witdrawal of the state's assistance to this important sphere of public life. We must, however, reject the role of the only patron in the same way as culture itself had rejected the role imposed upon it as a uniform instrument in the hands of the authorities. Variety is in the nature of culture, and if we do not want to obliterate it there is also the need for varied and decentralized sources of financing culture. Both in culture and in the other so-called budget spheres reform is also indispensable, concerning both the structures and the sources of financing.

Deputy Lapicki, while talking about culture, also talked about the soul. I may consider myself a technocrat, but a technocrat can also have a soul [applause], maybe even a heart. That is why, long before I was elected to the post of prime minister, and even before I became a deputy, guided by the heart I cared for disabled people, particularly children. So, I am trying to understand it, maybe in my own way.

May it please the House: One of the most important tasks of the government is the protection of the state and its citizens.

I take note of all the remarks made yesterday in this forum on this subject. I also express my solidarity with yesterday's Sejm and Senate statement concerning the events in Lithuania, which arouse our greatest anxieties.

Ladies and gentlemen: In conclusion, let me supplement our discussion with one more issue which was absent in this hall yesterday. It concerns a consistent construction of the legal state which is connected with the necessity to liquidate many pathological phenomena: corruption, widespread smuggling, and the black market. The quality of work in our country must also be improved. I listened with great attention yesterday to opinions about the incorrect relation of average pay to the amount of unemployment benefit. This often leads to corrupt practices. The benefit cannot be a charitable donation, but it must not encourage the abuse of the welfare policy of the state.

Finally, a remark which is completely personal. Once again it has been made clear that one's point of view depends on one's position. As a deputy occupying seat no. 369, I became accustomed to having the left on my right side, and the right on the left. When I took the prime minister's seat yesterday and started listening to the discussion, I thought this would be reversed. On my present left side, however, I heard a voice expressing a wish for the church's social teaching, and on the right I heard slogans demanding the defense of employees' rights and the state sector. [applause] May it please the House: This probably proves that anything is possible in this legislature. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen: I realize that in this short address I have only managed to include answers to some of the questions that were asked in this hall yesterday. I hope that the whole government, with which—under my leadership—I am going to set to work immediately, will give detailed answers. That this be possible, I hereby ask—in keeping with the regulations of the proceedings—that the chamber accept the proposed composition of the cabinet. [applause]

Poll Conducted on Bielecki Government

LD1001120291 Warsaw PAP in English 1015 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 10—The Centre Agreement carried out a poll on the Bielecki government among the random sample of 2,100 people in 52 towns in 29 voivodships inhabited by about 70 percent of Poland's population.

At first, the pollsters asked people if they approved of Prime Minister Bielecki, his government and his draft programme in general: 12 percent of the respondents answered firmly yes; 22 percent—rather yes; 18 percent—yes and no; 8 percent—rather no; 8 percent—firmly no; and 32 percent of the respondents had no opinion.

Next, the pollsters asked passers-by whether the candidacy of any of the ministers seemed to be a mistaken idea to them. The answers were: 17 percent—yes; 23 percent—no; 60 percent—I have no opinion.

The respondents who answered the second question positively were asked to give details. The following names were mentioned more than 10 times: Balcerowicz—143; Boni—39; Rostworowski and Tanski—20 each; Majewski—19; Glapinski—18; Kolodziejczyk—17; and Skubiszewski—13.

Civic Alliance Organizes Vigil Rally 11 Jan

AU1101202091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1938 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—Upon the call of the Civic Alliance, some thousands of persons gathered in Bucharest's Revolution Square Friday afternoon to take part in a "vigil-standing in solidarity" with the claiming actions of the population in Timisoara. The demonstration, wished to take place in peace, turned into a genuine meeting in which the participants showed their discontent with the government's programme as well as with some of the political personalities accused of having belonged to the communist nomenklatura. Criticism was also made of the activity of the Ministry of the Interior.

During the demonstration, which was peaceful, slogans were chanted to show solidarity with the Timisoara residents as well as against the president, the government, the Senate's president and in favour of ex-King Mihai.

At the end of the demonstration in Revolution Square, a massive group of citizens made for University Square where, about 17:15 hours, blocked the road traffic both ways.

University Square Traffic Blocked

AU1101193691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1932 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—Several thousands of people called by the Civic Alliance have gathered in Bucharest's Revolution Square for a "vigil-standing in solidarity" with the population in Timisoara to back their claiming actions. They chant slogans against the president, the speaker of the Senate and the government as well as in favour of ex-King Mihai.

Road traffic was blocked in Bucharest's University square Friday at 17:15 hours by a massive group of citizens who took part in the "vigil-standing in solidarity" with Timisoara organized by the Civic Alliance in the Revolution Square.

The people gathered in University square chanted anti-presidential and anti-governmental slogans as well as slogans against the speaker of the Senate. A police report says at 19:00 hours 2,000 to 3,000 persons claiming no political leaning, were gathered in the University Square chanting antigovernmental and antipresidential slogans.

Following the intervention of police forces, at 20:30 hours traffic in the University Square was resumed. No incidents have been reported.

Organizes Bucharest Rally

AU1201193991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1904 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 12/1/1991—Answering a call launched at Friday's [11 January] demonstration, a Civic Alliance meeting started today at 3.00 p.m. in Bucharest's Revolution Square to support the claims of the population of Timisoara and Timis County. Several thousand persons are taking part in the meeting. Slogans are chanted of solidarity with the people of Timisoara, against communism, against the president and the government of the country, against the president of the senate, for ex-King Mihai.

At the end of The Civic Alliance meeting in Revolution Square, thousands of participants marched in a compact column down Onesti Street, Magheru Boulevard and Dorobanti Road to the Romanian Television chanting anti-communist, anti-presidential and anti-governmental slogans, against the senate president, in support of the ex-King Mihai. Solidarity was stated with the citizens of Timisoara and Timis County. Outside the television building, the demonstrators asked that the meeting be televised live.

Traffic Blocked Again 12 Jan

AU1201194091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1907 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 12/1/1991—Saturday [12 January] night road traffic in Bucharest's University Square the city's biggest crossroads was blocked again both ways after 7.30 p.m. by groups of persons who chant anti-presidential and anti-governmental slogans.

Rallies Continue 13 Jan

AU1301190191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1840 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 13/1/1991—For the third day consecutively, thousands of Bucharesters called by the Civic Alliance gathered in the capital's Revolution Square to take part in "vigil-standing in solidarity" with the Timisoara residents' claiming actions.

Like the previous days, the participants chanted anti-presidential and anti-governmental slogans as well as in favor of ex-King Mihai.

At 3:00 p.m. when the meeting started, a message of the Civic Committee of Timisoara was read, which demanded, inter alia, the resignation of President Ion Iliescu and Romania's Government, the establishment of the truth about the terrorists who shot at the population during the December 1989 revolution, the continuation of CADA activity, the putting again of some officers compelled to retire on the active, [and] the dismissal of the radio and television current management.

Sunday afternoon, about 5:00 p.m. the participants in the meeting organized by the Civic Alliance in Bucharest's Revolution Square made for the Television Station. En their route and in front of the Television Building, the demonstrators continued to chant slogans against the president, the government, the senate's speaker, and for monarchy.

About 7:00 p.m., some hundreds of persons, who claimed to belong to no political grouping, occupied the traffic road in University Square. According to police sources, the demonstrators in the area showed special violence during the clash with the order-keeping forces, throwing stones and Molotov cocktails. About 7:45 p.m. road traffic was resumed.

Iliescu Warns Against Continued 'Tension'

AU1101183291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0959 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—What is disagreeable in our political climate is the note of violence occasionally taken by contestations which serves no one says President Ion Iliescu in an interview with the TINERETUL LIBER, and stresses: "It is normal that different options can be freely made in a democratic society. However, when society has made an option like—in our case—free elections were held wherefrom certain institutions emerged on clearly defined terms in both substance and time—that is also a rule of democracy. Let the option of that majority be respected and a climate be ensured for the holders of the mandate to fulfill it." In his opinion efforts are required for the substance of democracy and its efficiency to be grasped by all. Otherwise "a continued state of tension and violent confrontation can only obstruct the general course of Romanian society."

On the prospects of economic and social growth this year, the Romanian head of state said among other things: "We have only just begun to approach the problems of transition to a market economy. Transition is in itself a complicated and difficult process. We have to overcome problems related to inherited economic structures. A centrally planned economic system has been demolished but the mechanisms of the market economy have not been put in place yet. The legislative process is not easy, either. There is no incentive—which the economic mechanism should have made, but we have been faced many times with negative phenomena affecting both labour efficiency, production, and intellectual, technological, scientific achievement."

As far as the situation in the gulf is concerned, President Iliescu said he hoped reason would prevail because "a military conflict would affect not only the states in the area but also the whole international atmosphere. Romania is known to have tried to be an active factor in the discussion of these problems. This is a very serious moment. We are approaching the boiling point. But I hope a political solution can be found."

Timis County Authorities Appeal For Calm

AU1101193991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1900 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—The authorities of Timis County and the City of Timisoara launched an appeal for calm and peace Friday afternoon. We are at the crossroads and that is why we must show a decent, democratic and tolerant spirit as well as much understanding, says the appeal. We want to do only what we think is best for the population in our county. We need the population's moral support, but it ought to show this through peaceful, lucid and non-violent behaviour. Violence is not and will never be a characteristic feature of Timisoara's population. It would undeservedly stain Timisoara's reputation now. No gesture should contribute to deteriorating an already tense situation.

Group Investigating Timis Problems Issues Report

AU1201195391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1917 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 12/1/1991—On 11 and 12 January 1991 a technical commission named by the government of Romania and led by Mihai Zisu, minister of resources and industry, including heads of departments and other experts jointly with the leadership of Timis County Prefecture, executives of commercial companies and their union leaders made a detailed analysis of the problems confronting the economic agents in the county, a statement of the commission shows.

It was agreed that the analysis be made by five groups of commercial companies, according to the production they manufacture, and that concrete solutions be found together with the members of the technical commission appointed by the government of Romania.

Sixty-five problems of commercial companies and twenty-one general problems were analyzed and solutions were given to them.

It was agreed that the Government of Romania should ask Parliament to urgently discuss and approve the laws concerning social protection, economic contracts and the press.

It was also decided that the members of the commission should see how the agreed measures take effect in the next period and keep in touch with the economic units in Timis County.

Ministers, Railway TU Leaders Meet 10 Jan

AU1101201791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1815 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—Thursday, January 10, at the headquarters of the Ministry for Public Works and Transport the representatives of the railway and transport union convention continued their talks, that had started a day before, with Doru Pana, minister of public works and transport, and other two members of the government—that is Catalin Zamfir, minister of labour and social protection, and Teodor Stolojan, finance minister. As Minister Doru Pana told a ROMPRES reporter on the phone, the talks were based on a list of unions claims.

Before closing the talks, a protocol was concluded on the possibilities of solving the problems raised, and the two parties agreed on the necessity to continue the dialogue.

Socialist Party Publishes Own Newspaper

AU1101183091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1411 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—The first issue of the press organ of the Socialist Party of Labour "SOCIALISTUL" [THE SOCIALIST], whose director is professor and publicist Dumitru Balaiet, was brought out.

The newspaper is printed in Constanta and its first issue contains programmatic documents and official statements of the party's central committee in connection with the country's current political, economic and social life.

Communique Issued on 12 Jan Government Meeting

AU1201193191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1854 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 12/1/1991—A cabinet meeting Saturday 12 January discussed general policy questions and made decisions on them.

In connection with the possibility that favorable decisions for Romania could be deferred by international bodies because the report of the parliamentary commission investigating the events of 13-15 June 1990 had not been published, the government threw its support behind the letters sent by the prime minister, Petre Roman, to the presidents of the two Houses of Parliament which stress among other things that "Romania cannot get access politically and economically to the international community, to the European Community in particular (the Council of Europe, the EEC and the Group of 24 assistance programme—PHARE) if the Parliamentary Commission investigating the events of 13-15 June 1990 fails to submit its report to these international organisms by 17 January".

The effect on government action if our political and economic links with the above institutions are blocked could be very serious, maybe impossible to offset.

Obviously, it is not the content of the report that is the subject of this move, but its finalization and forwarding in due time", the letters show.

In effect, for reasons that the leaders of international organisms explained in detail, and that their delegations that visited Romania referred to, those organisms are expecting such a report from the Parliament of Romania, not from other institutions in the state administration.

The government asked the prime minister in his capacity as leader of the ruling party to take steps and get the support of the ruling party to distance itself from the presidents of the two houses of Parliament whose personal positions favor a delay in enacting the reform.

On the situation at Timisoara lately, the government has discussed the measures that must be taken for the normalization of the economic and social life and of public order demanded by the majority of the population of the city.

Inciting, occasional violent anti-democratic actions of certain groups that break the rule of law, prevent administrative institutions from operating, and economic and social activities from going on should not be permitted; all the much more regrettable are such actions as Timisoara is the symbol of the Romanian revolution, the communique reads.

The attempts to take at all costs the population of Timisoara toward a political confrontation beyond democratic grounds and rules instituted in Romania threaten the country's renewal process, the communique says and adds that the government disapproves of the aggressive actions against the editorial office of newspaper "RENASTEREA BANATEANA" and that it appoints a commission to verify the truth of the assertions comprised in the article published in the 10 January issue of the said newspaper.

The government also discussed the very serious situation arising from the 15 January deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait and showed that, deeply attached to the efforts and initiatives for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the government of Romania cannot but consider also the situation in the event of a military conflict to solve the crisis. Measures were decided on the line of the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of the Interior for the strict observance of the obligations assumed in the international community and at the UN for the defense of international security. Furthermore, the government has taken measures to protect the Romanian citizens in the conflict area.

TAROM Airlines Strike To Continue

AU1101210991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1836 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—Two communiques, dated at 10 January 1991, issued by the state under-secretariat for civil aviation, announced, with no other details, the resumption of TAROM's regular flights with commencement from Monday, 14 January , for home routes and from Saturday 12 January, for external routes.

Our information is that, although the "TAROM" flights are to be resumed, the strike of the 800 pilots and navigating personnel will continue until their claims, of extremely unprofitable consequences for Romania's economy, are granted.

Flights will be resumed with pilots from "ROMAVIA" airlines, of the Romanian Air Force.

On 10 December, the union of the navigating personnel addressed the board of directors of TAROM company a memorandum in an imperative tone, containing a package of claims, some of which appear to have been known since the beginning of 1990. Among them were:

considerably higher salaries and bonuses, partially in hard currency, a narrower age-limit for retirement, technical equipment on a par with international standards, co-participation in the meetings and decisions of he board of directors. These economic and social claims came after the employees of TAROM had benefited from another series of salary rises and social improvements.

Considering the answer of the board as unsatisfactory, the union reverted their claims to the prime minister on 12 December and in the morning of 14 December. But, deciding that the authorities delay the resolution of their demands, the union's plenum decided to call a general strike with effect from the evening of 14 December. Their claims were this time seven in number and more explicit: a five times increment of basic salary; the official conclusion to the inquiry into the air-crash of the 28.12.1989 Bucharest-Belgrade flight the dismissal of the entire TAROM's board of directors, labelled as incompetent and ill-meaning; preferential duty terms; the reorganisation of the company with the assistance of foreign experts.

What followed was a genuine psychological war: successive meetings with top executives of several ministries; memoranda and minutes, each side accusing the other of acting in disregard of them and of foul play. The strike continues, although more than half of the claims have been granted.

Given the serious material damage caused by what he considers to be an unjustified extension of the strike, the prime minister appointed a governmental panel to inquire into the matter, assess the losses and advise on how they could be compensated for. The government also decided the dissolution of the TAROM company and the establishment of the shareholding company TAROM S.A.

"We do not make politics and yet, the Taranists (Peasant Party) and the Liberals cursed us for having closed the frontiers, while the government suspects us of playing the game of the opposition inciting to general strike," said Sorel Tanasoiu, a union leader.

In his turn, Dumitru Prunariu, head of the Civil Aviation Department stated: "Judging by the course of the strike, by the claims made, I think the strike was monitored and especially called at a time like this."

Press comments on this labour conflict revealed the disproportion between the fliers' claims, some of which are justified and some are otherwise, as well as the serious and embarrassing consequences of their strike for Romania, which is thus losing tens of millions of dollars and important contracts for 1991. The TAROM flights used to cover most of the international and external air services of the country, which have now been paralysed for almost a month.

International Flights Resume

AU1201174891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1152 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 12/1/1991—As 800 TAROM company pilots and flight personnel continue their strike, international flights have been resumed Saturday [12 January] morning with pilots of the military aviation command working with the "ROMAVIA" company.

The first regular flight since the strike began on 14 December was the Bucharest-Amsterdam-Zurich flight.

Domestic flights will be resumed Monday 14 January also with military pilots.

Nicu Ceausescu Testifies in Bucharest Trial

AU1101183191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0952 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/12/1991—The Bucharest Military Court continued Tuesday to hear the witnesses for the prosecution in the trial of the former members of the Executive Political Committee of the CC [Central Committee] of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party], who are accused of genocide.

Witness Nicu Ceausescu, who is serving a 20-year term in jail after the same court passed the sentence last year for his instigation to murder, admitted that on 22 December 1989, minutes after his parents had fled the party central headquarters, he got a telephone call from defendant Ana Muresan who broke that piece of news to him, showing that "there is practically a power vacuum," but he denied that she would have asked him to come to Bucharest to take over the leadership of the party and the country or that he would have intended to do that.

Asked whether he knew what the events in Timisoara over 16-22 December 1989 were really like, the witness said that the information he had been given concealed the truth, that it referred in broad lines to hooliganic actions planned by hostile elements abroad jointly with certain persons in this country who were in the former's pay.

The second witness Lidia Trandafir, who was one of the short-hand writers of the CC of the RCP chancellory, said the document on the Political Executive Committee meeting of 22 December 1989 in the file of the cause was a Xerox copy of her transcript of the meeting.

12 Witnesses Testify in Ex-Generals' Trial 11 Jan

AU1101222191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2013 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—Friday, during the trial of the former executives of the Ministry of the Interior and the State Security Department, charged with having deprived 1,299 persons of freedom during the December 21, 1989 events, a crime for which they should be sentenced to 1-to-5-years imprisonment,

the witnesses for the defence continued to be heard. Of the twelve witnesses called before the Supreme Court of Justice, the Military Section, only two were present, which puts the trial under the question mark, more particularly because the previous days another twelve witnesses were absent.

In their testimonies, the witnesses reported the way in which they were detained and maltreated in the night of December 21 1989, with special stress on the scope of the repressive actions the order-keeping bodies took against the demonstrators.

The trial will be resumed on January 15, 1991.

* Stanculescu's View on 'Destabilizers' Challenged

91BA0163E Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 6 Dec 90 p 2

[Article by Flaviu Butnaru]

[Text] In a recent speech in Parliament Brigadier General Victor Stanculescu made some statements about the press, especially ROMANIA LIBERA, which he labeled "a factor of incitement to violence" and which, together with various pressure groups within the army, are allegedly carrying out, according to him, subversive partisan actions that are destabilizing the army. Such groups, which are carrying out political actions incompatible with military organization, allegedly give rise to aggressiveness in the society to the point of violence.

As we see, the general is reviving and applying the old communist principle that "whoever is not with us is against us." A peculiar attitude, reminiscent of the "original democracy" of another first rank personality, but who at least recently and at least in words has recognized the right to criticize. But let's go "back to our sheep," as they say (mangy sheep, according to the army minister, who may yet contaminate the entire "flock"). The targets were obviously the members of CADA [Action Committee for the Democratization of the Army], whom the general described as about ten officers. Let's say they're ten. So what about the pressure groups?! What groups? Five groups of two members each—at the most—right? Who are allegedly going from one unit to the next throughout Romania's four armies. Doesn't it sound a tiny bit absurd?!

As for the general's opinion that ROMANIA LIBERA is guilty of slander, we think we should take that as something said in anger (caused by articles such as "The General Claims Innocence," for example, which quoted and examined with cold logic statements made by the minister himself in an interview for the magazine TINERAMA).

Just as, far being from us, Terence once said that "Truth arouses hatred, flattery makes friends." Otherwise we would certainly have been sued.

In point of fact, it seems that the general is usually rather careless with his statements because, as we learned in the French press, he did not exclude the possibility of a military coup—should the need arise!—and thus of a new dictatorship!...

Faithful to a certain way of thinking typical of certain high-ranking circles in power, the general thinks that telling the truth frankly and democratically, also in and about the army, means destabilizing.

Well, in this sense—and no other—we are convinced that the truly free and independent press does destabilize. We are "destabilizers" just as we were "hooligans."

* Civic Alliance Group for Social Dialogue Link

91BA0175A Bucharest AZI in Romanian 9 Dec 90 p 2

[Article by Victor State: "Skillful Manipulations by the Group for Social Dialog and the Civic Alliance"]

[Text] The rebirth of updated doctrine currents (certainly not an updated doctrine, because it is not clearly enough outlined) is a new element characteristic of the present "landscape" of Romania's young democracy.

It is the incontestable "merit" of the GDS [Group for Social Dialog] to have updated elitism and meritocracy as the fundamental "ideology" of the Civic Alliance.

The Civic Alliance is not and does not want to be a "party"; it is a "movement" that has already acquired its own history (as it emerges from its weekly publication 22). The movement was born "of a threat" (that idea "took root at the end of June"); testing for "supporters" began in July ("everything that could be tested or could be credible in our suspicion-prone world has been tested") and supporters were sought among "independent associations and groups, inconvenient newspapers and leaders of opposition parties, from the National Peasant Party to the ecologists." The organization of the movement was stepped up in the 26-28 October period (the International Conference on Democracy and Human Rights held in Timisoara). The organization was announced on 7 November 1990, and by 15 November "the Civic Alliance was already stating (!?) that it represented the last (!) chance of the Romanian society!"

Mr. Gabriel Andreescu's wording was significant, although it became lost among the phraseology: "Everything done after 22 December must be governed by the principles of the revolution," something that is a "skillful and superior" maneuver for a "noble and pure support."

Theoretically, the actions of the GDS and the Civic Alliance appear to stem from humane motives ("well-meaning solidarity can be the physical and metaphysical key of a nation"), except that the facts and the outcomes of their actions are something else.

The Civic Alliance is the "emanation" of the GDS and, in accordance with the ideas of elitism and meritocracy (skillfully denied in the pages of the very independent ROMANIA LIBERA by exploiting the naivete or credulity of some people), denies being a "party" (since a party

requires internal discipline in keeping with its ideology and the interests it promotes), but a "movement," outside (actually, above) any party ideology and interests, and endowed with a limitless megadose of independence. These "solid foundations" served as the basis for a perfidious and repulsive formula of "exceptional power" (far greater than the "power of the press") whose moral authority is placed above the legislative, executive, or judicial power. Thus, the purpose is to make the Civic Alliance and GDS the super-arbiter or super-judge of a "social and moral court of justice" representing the only "real force" of the path to social equilibrium. These will be the "real elected leaders" of the Romanian nation, and these will be the "social elites" whose incontestable "merits" stem from the above mentioned rights and responsibilities.

The "tests" done in the search for "elites and supporters" demonstrated the capability to use multiple procedures (reminiscent of similar situations in the post-war period): unequivocal declarations of alliance between intellectuals and workers ("the fate of a possible democracy in Romania depends mainly on the alliance of intellectuals and workers"—Stelian Tanase, "Our Failures," 22 No. 33); attempts to place certain social and professional categories (like economists or jurists) in spots other than where they should be, namely at the side of the other social and professional categories; strategic "manipulation" of the causes and consequences of certain events (through deliberately wrong assessments); the use of the "power and will of the street" as a means of "economic and social destabilization" (see the Civic Alliance meeting of 15 November and certain confused or contradictory statements by Messrs. Octavian Paler, Stelian Tanase, and P.M. Bacanu); utilization of international meetings as venues for confessions and reports designed to rechannel the positions of Western intellectuals toward the role, position, and force of certain strata of Romanian intellectuals (Gabriel Liiceanu, report at the Luxembourg colloquium in October 1990 on cultural perspectives in East Europe), and many others in the same vein.

From their positions (outside any party) and standing (far above anyone else), these "apolitical elites" will carefully "watch" the economic, social, and political situation of the country; they will "sound the alarm" and "box the years" of any government any time it does not ensure a stable equilibrium; and if the government does not promote its "obligatory recommendations," the new power (the Civic Alliance) will rally all "honest" organizations and forces (read, forces of national destabilization) to impose the necessary changes.

This is the "essence" of the apolitial ideology of the Civic Alliance promoted by GDS & Co., although their skillfully maneuvered and manipulated declarations are aimed at emphasizing the opposite.

* Iliescu Condemned for 'Thirst for Power'

91BA0175C Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 11 Dec 90 pp 1, 2

[Article by Florin Gabriel Marculescu: "The Only Solution"]

[Text] Mr. I. Iliescu's televized speech last Friday reminded us of the words of our national poet: "In reality there exist only two forms of tyranny and degradation of a human state: despotism and demagoguery. Despotism, too, is an equalizing factor among people, whom they enslave to only one, allowing their most noble faculties, good passions, and intelligence to degenerate; demagoguery, too, has the same fatal effect because of the indifference it inspires in great and open minds forced to watch the consistent victory of mediocrity and slyness." This quotation from Eminescu was printed on the first page of our 29 December 1989 issue. In those days its target was not Mr. Iliescu because we have to confess that it took us a long time to gather our wits about us and it was only about the beginning of January that we began to decipher his intentions, disguised, then as now, under the folds of speeches devoid of spontaneity and human warmth, but abundantly adorned with calls for consensus and social peace. Then, like today, he thundered against anyone who was, God forbid, panting for the bone of power. As if he himself had not joined the power game from the very first moment, letting us assume that he was the messenger of an unhoped-for but providential salvation. In order to gain popularity he hastened to give material advantages to a hungry and freezing population, which now the authorities are extracting tenfold from the pockets of the same people fooled by the appearances of prosperity until the May elections. The terrorism scenario stopped a clearly anti-Communist revolution, cynically increasing the number of victims. The trials of nomenklatura members have become a mockery. They are not on trial for their real crimes. That would have put on trial Communism as a system, and that was not and is not desirable. The Securitate has reappeared with its old structures and methods. Nothing is said anymore about the fortunes of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party], the UGSR [General Union of Romanian Trade Unions], and UTC [Union of Communist Youth], and the obligations incumbent on the prime minister under the law have been forgotten. Trusted members of the old Communist regime are doing just fine ensconced in comfortable managerial armchairs, from where they act to prevent judicial proceedings against crimes committed by, among others, ranking personalities of our current political life, who held the highest positions under Dej, too. The victims are advised to live in peace and understanding with their former torturers, who today are lecturing us on democracy and humanism. And all that is happening under the understanding and partisan eyes of our president who, even now, when his original party has officially reappeared, is not making the slightest gesture to repudiate his life-long convictions. If for no other reason than that he is the president he should have

announced his withdrawal, be it only formal, from Comrade Verdet's party. But he continues to scold us with visible and, as he put it, human resentments in the name of profoundly patriotic values which, however, his acolytes did not hesitate to besmirch in Alba Iulia. It is true that he expressed regret about what happened, but he did so without fair play and he did not let the opportunity escape to mount a vehement counterattack.

In order to not have to utter the word resignation, he reminded us that he had a popular mandate that he was determined to carry on to its completion. There was no question of his hanging on to the power! Oh, sacred demagoguery.... It is true that he won the election. No point in discussing the conditions in which the electoral campaign was carried out. Later, however, drunk with success, he committed the capital political blunder of pitting one social category against others, thus choosing to place himself below the dignity required by the presidential seat. Mr. Iliescu thereby managed to deepen our isolation in the world and to deprive us of international aid and loans that, however modest, would have alleviated the pains of the transition period. We continue to lose hundreds of millions of dollars because his presence bars our access to the most-favored-nation clause and to normal relations with the United States. And we could cite additional examples of the damages caused by our isolation. True, he was given a mandate. But instead of respecting it, he acted and continues to act to expand the prerogatives established under the electoral law for the present transition period. He took control of the executive branch and, anointed as chairman of the Supreme Army Council, he also took over the Securitate. And Mr. Iliescu's thirst for power may yet harbor many other surprises for us. We haven't seen them, but we feel a presidential republic in the making. Already our conviction is strengthened by the powers with which the president was invested in the meantime. And if this formula is valid in other countries in which democracy has long been consolidated, it is not suitable to our country and to our recent tragic experience. For a while we must avoid any excessive concentration of power in the hands of one person, whoever that person may be. The form of government must be submitted to national referendum. This is the most elementary requirement, which we don't think our president can ignore. It seems, however, that he doesn't like the idea of a referendum. There is a risk that a parliamentary republic may be adopted as the form of government, as suggested even in the electoral law. We cannot ignore a constitutional monarchy either, whose legitimacy comes from our history. We have to admit, however, that its chances are rather theoretical.

In short, the burden of Mr. Iliescu's political blunders should not have to be carried by an entire people. If he were indeed inspired by patriotic feelings as he is trying to persuade us, he would resign without delay. This would help prevent a dangerous escalation of social and political tensions. It would be an act of political wisdom on his part which would demonstrate that he understands the rules of democracy in whose name he sees himself forced by circumstances to talk to us. In so doing he would only be following, in similar circumstances, the example of his colleagues Jaruzelski and Mladenov, who, feeling overtaken by events, chose to leave the political arena of their own free will. They, too, had mandates as legal as Mr. Iliescu's.

Economic Situation in Timis County Examined

AU1101201891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1824 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—Friday morning a governmental commission led by Mihai Zisu, minister of resources and industry, started its work in Timisoara. The commission is formed of department heads and directors, experts in the Ministries of Resources and Industry, Trade and Tourism, Agriculture and the Food Industry. The commission intends to help solve problems facing the economy in Timis County. To this end analyses will made in each economic unit in the county.

The commission started its activity by holding a meeting with TU leaders in economic units in the municipality and the county, in the presence of Mr. Florentin Carpanu, prefect of Timis County.

* Plan for Privatization of Domestic Trade System

91BA0164A Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 5 Dec 90 p 3

[Interview with Mihai Popescu, director general of the Privatization Directorate, by Mihai Ionescu; place and date not given]

[Text] If we are to believe governmental forecasts, the days of the state trade system are numbered. We will not now deliberate whether this will really be so or not (we will do that another time); here we will endeavor to present the new form of trade administration as it has been conceived in government's Order No. 130/1990 on the decentralization of trade activities and privatization of domestic trade. Our interlocutor is Mihai Popescu, director general of the Privatization Directorate of the competent department.

[Ionescu] Mr. Director, will the state trade network disappear altogether?

[Popescu] The commercial companies established in the domestic trade sector (through the reorganization of former state enterprises) will be able to run their stores in several forms: on the basis of a store rental contract; under rent contract (won at auction); or under lease, on commission, or as a concession. The differences among these forms depend on the distinct obligations of the two contract parties, the enterprise administration on the one hand, and the store personnel on the other.

[Ionescu] The buyer is not very interested in internal organizational aspects. What is interesting to the buyer is what the stores will look like. What is your prognosis?

[Popescu] We hope that the reorganization of the trade network will make the sales personnel feel more responsible for and more interested in ensuring good supplies and better consumer service. We also hope that this will put an end to the corruption, black marketeering, and concealement of wares that we now have to contend against.

[Ionescu] What will be the selling prices in reorganized stores? Hopefully the privatization won't make official black marketeering of state goods.

[Popescu] The basic consumer staples, which will be controlled by the state, will sell in all the stores at the prices set in accordance with the government's decision No. 1 109/1990. For the rest, the commercial companies will negotiate prices with the suppliers and set uniform prices for all the stores under their control.

[Ionescu] Who will be the personnel employed in the reorganized stores?

[Popescu] The personnel currently employed will be given first option to take over the store in whatever administrative form, provided they have demonstrated that they fulfill the professional requirements and can efficiently exploit the facilities. If the personnel in question do not wish to take over the stores in which they are employed, then we put them up for auction among other interested entrepreneurs.

[Ionescu] Once the stores are privately run, isn't there a danger that they will be turned into pubs and snackbars, so that people will have to chase from one end of the city to the other to find a bakery or a green grocer? God knows we have had more than enough such precedents last summer.

[Popescu] The organization of the trade network falls under the competence of the regional directorates for commercial programs and urbanization, and those directorates are obligated to ensure an even distribution of stores in each locality and neighborhood. The entrepreneurs who refuse to observe the criteria established by these directorates will forfeit their permits (which will be issued for each store individually).

We'll wait and see. Is this going to be another bankrupt governmental experiment?

President Iliescu Pays Official Visit to Pakistan

AU1301183491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1706 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad (ROMPRES) 13/1/1991—En route to Beijing where he is to pay an official visit starting Monday [14 January], Mr. Ion Iliescu, president of Romania, stopped over in Islamabad. The first half of the day was devoted to talks with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The two heads of state referred to the situation in their countries and made a realistic evaluation of existing possibilities, of the potential factors which can argue the level and content of Romanian-Pakistani relations.

Convinced that there will be better links between Romania and Pakistan in various spheres, they acknowledged the positive role of the joint commission of economic collaboration the works of which are to be held in Islamabad in early February, which is apt to identifiy solutions and specific forms of cooperation. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while referring to his experience when he led the commission for his country, opted for a smaller number of sectors of collaboration. Such a strategy should be accepted given the economic situation in the two countries and making a realistic evaluation of their material and financial resources he showed.

Mr. Ion Iliescu, sharing that opinion, insisted on the possibility and opportuneness of drawing an ever larger circle of economic agents into activity, all those who, in the situation created by the economic reform under way in Romania, can constructively contribute to boosting, diversifying and making more efficient the collaboration between the two countries.

In the context, Mr. Ion Iliescu invited President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to pay official visit to Bucharest.

Meets President, Prime Minister

AU1301203491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2016 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad (ROMPRES) 13/1/1991—The situation in the gulf seen from the angle of latest developments and, more particularly, of the changes that can occur from one moment to another, of the implications of a conflict in the area under the sign of a potential explosion dominated the exchange of views on international issues between Romania's President Ion Iliescu and Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The two heads of state referred to the disastrous aftermaths of the situation created by the gulf crisis, with emphasis on its impact on the world situation.

Though prospects are more than discouraging, the two collocutors expressed their hope that reason would eventually gain ground and a political solution would be found to settle the crisis in the area.

The Pakistani president also mentioned his country's stance on Kashmir issue.

Special attention was given to the political developments in Europe—especially in Eastern Europe.

The talks were pervaded by an amiable tone, by mutual respect, thus enabling reiteration of adhesion to the international law which should underlie interstate relations.

Romania and Pakistan will continue their collaboration internationally, within the United Nations and other specialized organisms.

Mr. Ion Iliescu's talk with Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Mian Nawaz Sharif concentrated on the possibility of expanding economic cooperation between the two countries. Special task is to be fulfilled in this

respect by the joint Romanian-Pakistani commission to start its activity soon and approach specific projects.

Pakistan's wish was asserted to obtain several products and technologies Romania can offer.

The Pakistani prime minister accepted President Ion Iliescu's invitation to visit Romania.

Iliescu Toasts at 13 Jan Dinner

AU1401120091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0939 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 14/1/1991—My friendly talks with you, Mr. President and with the prime minister were a special occasion to resume, on a new principled basis, the traditional friendship ties between the Romanian and the Pakistani peoples, between Romania and Pakistan, President Ion Iliescu pointed out at the close of the program in his honor organized in Islamabad.

Speaking before high officials attending the dinner offered by Pakistan's president, President Iliescu said it was extremely useful to exchange information on the significant changes taking place in Romania and Pakistan "relevant for the concerns of the two countries and peoples to participate in the process of speeding up world economic development, for the modernization of the political and social life, for the promotion of democracy and ensurance of ever better conditions for the citizens of our two countries."

Considering the new guidelines of Romania's foreign policy, President Iliescu added, Romania's leaders, its government are determined to develop the relations of cooperation with Pakistan on all planes.

The trade and economic cooperation will no doubt continue to be the backbone of the ties between Romania and Pakistan, President Iliescu pointed out. "The experience in this field is good and it must be turned to good account", and even if the evolution of the commercial exchanges over the past year was not so good "there are reasons to hope the present difficulties will be surpassed, and solutions good for both parties will be found by joint effort and constructive cooperation.

"In these times, full of troubles but also of hopes we think it is of utmost importance to observe in our foreign relations the principles and norms of international law and to promote international solidarity.

"We were pleased to notice that Romania and Pakistan have very close stands in the most important international problems."

Visit Ends; Results Reviewed

AU1401133491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1245 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 14/1/1991—President Ion Iliescu's visit to Islamabad upon the invitation of Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Kahn came to an end.

During the talks President Iliescu had with the Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Kahn and with Prime Minister Mohammad Mian Nawaz Sharif, the two sides pointed out the friendship and cooperation relationships established between the two peoples, the two countries' common determination to develop them on new principles, for their mutual interest and advantage.

These meetings with the top officials of the host country revealed the readiness of both Romania and Pakistan to promote and extend visits at governmental, parliamentary, trading, manufacturing, cultural and press levels, contacts between cultural and scientific personalities.

President Iliescu extended Pakistan's president and prime minister the invitation to visit Romania at an earlier date. The invitations have been accepted, the dates remaining to be settled through diplomatic channels.

Both sides shared the opinion that commercial exchanges and economic cooperation hold a prominent part in the Romanian-Pakistani bilateral relations, due to the deep structural changes occurring in the economy of the two countries. Their competent executives shall meet to discuss such objectives of mutual interest that may boost commercial exchanges and economic cooperation. The Romanian side stressed Romania's availability for joint ventures in Pakistan, for which it possesses the technical capacity and expertise to put them into operation.

The two parties are also interested in finalizing the negotiations under way and in reaching an agreement between Romanian and Pakistani economic agents, in increasing the amount and range of the products that form the object of the commercial exchanges between the two countries.

The above proposals are to be examined at the session to be held soon of the joint economic and technical cooperation commission, scheduled for February, 1991 at Islamabad.

The sides agreed to speed up the negotiations for the new cultural agreement over 1991-1993.

The talks also approached aspects of the present international situation, the Gulf crisis in particular, the cooperation in Europe, the Balkans and South Asia, other topics of joint interest. The two countries reasserted their wish that their delegations should cooperate more closely within the United Nations and other international fora, thus contributing to solving the major problems mankind faces at present: underdevelopment, stability of peace, sustained cooperation among all countries of the world.

Foreign Minister Nastase Ends Visit to Jordan

AU1101201991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1911 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—Friday, January 11, Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase

concluded his official visit to Amman upon the invitation of his Jordanian counterpart Tahir al-Masri.

The Romanian and Jordanian delegations led by the foreign ministers concentrated the talks on bilateral relations and more particularly on the latest developments in the Gulf.

Both sides stressed that the bilateral dialogue on economic cooperation should show creative thinking apt capitalize all possibilities in accordance with the new conditions created in Romania by the revolution and with the options of the Jordanian side, a valuable partner for several years.

The approach to the gulf crisis in which Jordan is deeply involved occasioned a broad exchange of views that had the need for a political, negotiated settlement of the conflict in the area as a common denominator. The need was reiterated for the observance of international laws, the undertaking of measure apt to solve the gulf crisis, including the ones enshrined in the UN resolutions. It was stressed that the Security Council members, the Arab states and all the countries of the world should make every effort to control the situation in these hot days and avoid a war in the Middle East with deep and unforeseeable implications for the fate of millions of people. It was also shown that Romania's stance on the settlement of the gulf crisis was close to the Jordanian one, which is yet another proof of the readiness for a productive political dialogue between the two countries.

Communique Issued on Visit

AU1301190291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1842 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 13/1/1991—Mr. Adrian Nastase paid a visit to Jordan over January 10-12, shows a communique of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania. The foreign minister was received by King Husayn Ibn-Talal of Jordan, and by Crown Prince Hassan, and conducted talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher al-Masri.

The talks evinced both sides' wish to work for growing commercial exchanges and economic cooperation between Romania and Jordan, also through the delegations to the sessions of the Joint Commission of Economic Collaboration, which should include representatives of the private sector in the two countries.

The talks focused on the situation in the gulf, with emphasis on the common conclusion that every effort should be made more particularly in the days to come to prevent war and initiate a process of politically solving the problems in the area.

In the context, appreciation was made of the Romanian Government's position on the gulf crisis as well as of Romania's diplomatic efforts for a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

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Mr. Adrian Nastase met in Amman with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who was en route to Baghdad. He expressed the Romanian Government's support for his new demarche, and advanced some ideas and suggestions to be taken into account during his talks in Baghdad.

Iliescu Statements Prior to Departure for China

AU1301182391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1735 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 13/1/1991—First, I should like to underscore the significance of this visit to the largest country of the world in point of number of population, as one in five inhabitants of this planet is in the People's Republic of China, said President Ion Iliescu in a statement he made before leaving for that country. There is no need to speak about the importance of this country worldwide, about the traditional relations between our countries and the interest in consolidating and boosting bilateral ties with this big Asian country, a country of ancient culture, of an ancient civilization and with a special human and economic potential, which is also undergoing changes. Its efforts toward renewing economic mechanisms, the economic life in general have been known for more than two decades. Its people has a big working potential and special traits on the plane of work, of productive activity. That is why we show special interest in developing both political and economic relations with that country. Now, on a political plane, for instance, China is a permanent member of the Security Council, while Romania is a Security Council member for another year, and we have had an active cooperation in the major problems of our days. Considering its economic potential, the importance it has in maintaining and developing our bilateral ties is incontestable. Therefore, on both planes, as regards both the consolidation and growth of political relations and the development of economic links, this visit is part and parcel of our concerns and efforts toward boosting bilateral ties.

Referring to his stopover in Pakistan upon the invitation of President Ishaq Khan and the Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Iliescu said: Pakistan is one of the Asian countries with which we have friendly relations, and this will be another opportunity for us to establish new contacts and find out the ways of boosting bilateral ties. We are likely to stop over in India while coming back home, but this depends also on the political developments given the present tense international situation. Our visit coincides with the climax in the gulf crisis, Mr.Iliescu also said. Undoubtedly, this question will also be in the focus of our consultations and talks with the personalities in the countries we shall visit. I should like to express my hope that ultimately reason will be triumphant and shall give solutions, because we are on the tight rope and the fate of war and peace in the gulf is to be decided in a couple of days. We would like to see progress following the U.N. secretary-general's visit to Baghdad or, anyway, a solution to politically, peacefully

settle the conflict in the area. I should also like to say I am particularly concerned over the tense situation in the country and, unfortunately, I must again say that, the same forces which disturbed public order attempt again to create states of tension in the country, both in Timisoara and in Bucharest. The central bodies' efforts are well known. A governmental team was in Timisoara to find out solutions, and it worked very constructively, but we could see there were shows of violence which are a great danger.

I should like to call on the population to show due responsibility and ensure peace in the country, for a smooth run of affairs in enterprises and in all localities. I should urge all the political forces to bring their efforts in concert and guarantee the peace so much needed on all planes. I would urge even these forces which assume such a hard responsibility by inciting irresponsible elements as they do nothing else but attempt to the achievements of our democracy, even so modest as they are, being a great danger for the destiny of democracy in our country. I an convinced that appropriate understanding and maturity will ultimately be shown and the country's population will be able to keep these irresponsible elements that destabilize the country under control, President Iliescu stated.

Presidential Adviser Pascu on PRC Relations

AU1201175591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1235 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 12/1/1991—In an interview with the daily "AZI", Presidential Adviser Ioan Mircea Pascu said, referring to the Romanian-Chinese relations: Romania is known to have had traditional friendship relations with the People's Republic of China, reflecting the importance we have attached to the role of this big state in the international political and economic life. All present analyses, including those elaborated in the United States show that China will continue to play an important part in international relations. In this respect, it is natural that post-revolutionary Romania should make use of the traditional friendship relations with the Chinese people and state, to try to maintain the favorable situation after the December '89 revolution and build on it. We are also interested in strong economic, cultural relations with China. Therefore I should say there are important reasons for maintaining and even enlarging and intensifying our relations with this state.

Referring to the program of President Iliescu's visit to China the presidential adviser specified talks would be held between the presidents of the two countries, between President Iliescu and the Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng. The Romanian president will also meet representatives of the parties attending the political consultative conference, Chinese scientists.

Roman Receives British Parliamentarian

AU1101222091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2043 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/1/1991—Romania's Prime Minister, Mr. Petre Roman, received Friday British deputy John Mofall who has been in this country for several days to investigate possibilities of helping the Romanian social security institutions. During the talks, both sides expressed their wish to establish specific ways for Romanian-British collaboration in this sphere, in accordance with a joint long-term programme.

In a statement to the press after his interview with the Romanian prime minister, the guest said he would call for assistance to the Romanian children in hospitals and orphanages.

Prime Minister Markovic's Report to Presidency

LD1101213191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1838 GMT 11 Jan 91

["Text" of report by Prime Minister Ante Markovic at SFRY Presidency on 11 January]

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Jan (TANJUG)—The Federal Secretariat for Information this evening submitted Prime Minister Ante Markovic's report at yesterday's session of the SFRY Presidency. TANJUG transmits the text of the report in full:

"May I thank you for inviting me to attend this session, though I must say that, having been specifically told that the Federal Executive Council [FEC] president would not be invited to the session, I convened a session of the government which has been suspended and will be resumed in the afternoon. We have managed to organize ourselves in such a way that I can be present here.

Allow me to add something that was not prepared specifically for this session, because we did not think that we would be invited.

One thing is clear after the multiparty elections in various parts of our country: We are facing a different situation in view of the political orientation of the forces that emerged victorious. We can assume that these forces, within the framework of institutions, will fight for the implementation of their own programs which are different if we are to compare the fundamental questions of the development of our society. We have several questions, however, which need to be answered. Are these political forces, in their seeking of a way out of the crisis facing our society, ready to impose their own stands to others in the process of agreement-seeking on relations in the country, becauseit is obvious that they cannot? If this were possible, the same political options would prevail everywhere. Because they did not, it is quite clear that we could talk about a compromise of, I would say, political options, which has led to the elections being won according to developments in each environment. But when we talk about the formation of joint relations in a future country, or future community, I venture to state that these political options must be ignored.

The second question to be answered now is: Are we entering into talks to say in advance what the results of these talks are, and how do we now want to shape the result of these talks? Should there be talks—in a way which was also present here among those who set out their views, and this is something which the FEC has for a long time been supporting—on the content of the new relations, and on the basis of this content, not opting in advance for any option, the formation of new relations in the country?

Third, it should be said that this second question is the only assumption which, in my opinion, could serve as a starting point for talks. Without this, obviously there are no talks.

Fourth, we should agree that time is needed for such talks and for such an agreement. This time-scale—as I set out last time as well—is probably a minimum of half a year, after which—and I said this last time as well—they would analyze what they should do. It seems to me that it is much more realistic to talk in terms of the whole of this year. In the final analysis, if the whole of this year were to be invested in such an historical agreement, this would repay itself in an incomparable way with a very high interest rate.

Fifth, are we interested or not in seeing the reforms that are underway continuing further, or should we drop them and start from scratch? Are we in favor of the system continuing to develop in the way in which it has already started to develop—because this kind of development is already underway, and it already has certain results—or are we not? We think that not only is it essential to continue with the further reforms and that there can be no turning back without major consequences for this society in the country, but that the continuation of these reforms facilitates the agreement which should be made.

Sixth, many things could be listed, but, as a minimum under these circumstances, could relations be established which would facilitate the emergence of some minimum of joint policies and functions this year during which this agreement ought to be made? We are of the opinion that not only can this minimum of functions be agreed on but it must be agreed on. For without it we are really heading for anarchy, heading for chaos. We are heading, not in relative but in absolute terms, for a precipice that almost certainly will bring about the most serious consequences, among which a fratricidal war is by no means excluded. I believe everyone will agree on this. We have held multiparty elections which are certainly a significant milestone on the way to the further democratization of our society but this has not solved the problems in the least. All this country's serious problems are still open.

The most serious problem which remains is the problem of transition from the one system, which is not only eroding but disintegrating, to the other system that is to be formed. It is known what this other system is: It must be governed by market concerns rather than the arbitrariness of political decisions, it must accomodate different relations in society, a law-governed state must function within it, and there must be political pluralism in it. The building of this society is not simple—no one in the world has any experience or any necessary knowledge how to do this. Only in our country do we have some sort of experience because by embarking on these changes we have involved ourselves in the reform of our society so radically that in this respect we are certainly years, and perhaps a decade or so, ahead of all the formerly socialist countries which have embarked on these same problems. This period should not be subjected to risk.

The reforms have achieved so far, I believe, a basis and foundation for outlining consistent economic and other policies. They could be an opportunity for the reforms

that could be carried on in all parts of our country. For regardless of whether there will be any agreement, whether we will stay together or whether all of us will stand on our own, whether or not we stay within the framework of one country, whether we will have one political system or another in this or that part of the country—no one is capable of transcending, either on his own or jointly, the problems of the interim period, of transition from one system to another with all its economic, social and political prices which we must pay as individuals and as a collective.

A question has arisen that we can try to answer. Or rather, I think that we must. Will the price of this transition be greater if everyone does it individually, or if we do it together? I think that regardless of the final answer, and it is also the FEC's stand, that in the course of this agreement-seeking—whether we do it separately or jointly—we must ensure the minimum functioning of the system and the minimum continuation of reforms. In this way the price will be incomparably lower both for each individual and for everyone together.

We have some assessments about what is happening around us and what problems we could expect. Let us not forget that out of our seven neighbors, four are going through this period of purgatory and some of them have not even ensured the minimum living conditions during this winter. Also, let us not forget that Western Europe is increasingly aware of the good effects of the dismantled Iron Curtain and Berlin Wall. But the consequences of a possible explosion in this part of the world, which will spare no one protection, must be ensured.

Judging from the reports we have on the talks, we can conclude that there is also increasing awareness that it would be good to set up a cordon sanitaire. I think that there should be no doubt about where we are—we are inside this cordon sanitaire.

As a man conducting a part of this job in our country, I think that we must not accept to enter any kind of a cordon sanitaire, because we know what price we may have to pay.

I think that I should repeat the essential part of a report that I read to you last time I was here, because it seems that not everyone has managed to get hold of it. The FEC has prepared a document, submitted it to the SFRY Assembly and asked that it be sent to all republican and provincial assemblies so that we could all vote on it. The intention is to warn about everything we are discussing here today. The FEC is drawing attention to the necessity of immediately halting all negative processes and ensuring conditions for the life of society during the period needed to move from the institutions and relations of the collapsing old system to a new one, with new relations and institutions, on the basis of a new historic agreement between Yugoslav nations. It is necessary to reach a consensus to ensure the stability of this period: Eleven points were signed in this regard.

I must say the following: The FEC will fight for the adoption of these orientations, but it is at the same time prepared to participate in the seeking of any other solution leading to the achievement of the above aims. I think that it would be a good idea—as the minimum consent that can be reached at this session—that presidents of republics or presidencies should agree, together with the SFRY Presidency, that mandates be given to governments or executive councils of republics, together with the FEC, to try and resolve all these issues and reach agreement on the minimum necessary for the functioning of the country. When this has been established we should meet together to examine any controversial questions and try and make them uncontroversial, or, if they are really controversial, to remove them unless they are sine qua non of this minimum necessary for the functioning of the system and to ensure some sort of life in this country until the agreement is reached.

To be able to work on this at all, it is vital—it is not that this should be done but that it must be done—that the Serbian Assembly withdraw the laws and decisions that brought about the sabotage. I use this expression, which is very mild; one can otherwise use the real expression, which is much worse. In other words, sabotage in the monetary system and politics of the country.

I would say something as an introduction and explain what we are now doing and what we should do in the period ahead.

One of the first things which the FEC implemented—introducing the monetary macroeconomic policy into the life of our society—separated the monetary from the fiscal sphere. Not one socialist country has ever, and this includes Yugoslavia, had problems with its budget. Behind this budget there was always a monetary policy which printed as much money as it needed. Besides feeding the budget, it also covered public debts and exchange rate differences and provided subsidies to agriculture and exports—but the result of this was the country's catastrophic situation with even more catastrophic inflation.

Last year not only was the monetary sphere freed from all this, but all obligations—which earlier had been concealed behind monetary policy—were laid bare and transferred to the federal budget. Real sources of finance were sought for them. Because in the main you have closed your systems of information (things are happening here as a result of which people should not be going to court but to prison), impermissible lies are told. The FEC, in the course of last year, did not borrow a single dinar from the primary monetary issue for its needs.

In the process I must request that better communications between the SFRY Presidency and the FEC are established. For example, the document which the FEC sent to the Presidency as recently as Saturday concerning what was done in Serbia, was not available to you yesterday. I have had everything checked; this material was sent to you on Saturday.

I must say this, and I return to the quite concrete issue that encroachment on monetary policy—so that deficits,

whether throughout the country or in one part of it, are concealed from its sources—is absolutely unacceptable from the point of view of the implementation of the reforms in our country.

What has now been done in Serbia is the transfer of its own deficits onto all others in the country. This is clear to any economist who thinks in economic terms at all. This cannot be done. I have to say that the Republic of Serbia must suspend these laws and repay all these funds. The other way out is for everyone else to do the same thing.

If this is allowed to stand, inflation in March/April will be 30 to 40 percent per month, and will cancel out for us everything which we have done hitherto. There is no alternative therefore—and it is not a matter of whether others too should do this—but for this to be paid back.

In line with the search for a solution, the FEC held a meeting yesterday—Vice President Mitrovic and Finance Secretary Zekan with the vice presidents of the governments or executive councils and ministers or secretaries for finance—on how to regulate these relations so that in some way the common state may function. Although they did not agree on everything, the result of the talks is not bad and there is talk of an agreement being able to be reached and that these talks should be continued.

Apart from the fact that this law must be annulled and suspended and the funds returned, the Slovene Executive Council must suspend its memorandum. After all, this memorandum that was sent to us last night—we are now processing it, at this session of the FEC—prejudices relations in the country. Let this be in half a year or nine months, when these relations are negotiated. Not now. As a reply—it is written in the letter—to what has been done in Serbia, the Slovene Executive Council has adopted a memorandum in which these relations are also suspended in four basic areas: the financial area, the fiscal area, the monetary area, and in relations with foreign countries, etc.

I propose that we be given a period—I believe that this should not last long, there must be agreement in seven or 14 days—so that we get through all this and agree or try to agree on this minimum on which the country should function pending an agreement, and then start from fundamental orientations as to how to arrive at this future agreement.

I would also like to clarify this proposition. All the other things we are going to discuss are still a matter of lengthy and extensive talks because the initial standpoints are often totally at odds. I believe what we can agree upon and what, after all, we must agree upon fairly soon is some minimum of functions without which we cannot, in fact, survive any longer.

My proposition is that we try, together with the republics, the republican executive councils, within two weeks to agree on this minimum and that the issues in dispute be the subject of one of our talks here. Now we have something Tudjman proposed. Either we agree on the issues in dispute or we do not. Still, it seems to me that this is the most urgent issue.

We must—let me use this crude word—"buy time", so we can hold talks. This is "today's bargain" for having talks. We could work it out quicker but we have not yet defined governments, or at least mandators in individual republics. Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro still remain without them. We have Bosnia-Hercegovina's mandator. We must discuss these issues with those who will hold future offices and not with those who are leaving because they bear no responsibility.

Now, in light of the fact that all the assemblies will be held and the mandators defined, I believe that we could hold these talks about the minimum within two weeks and produce some propositions here. We may say either we agree on all 11 items, or we cannot agree on half of them. Let us see whether we can live without this "half". If we cannot, that is the end, there is nothing to be discussed any longer. If we can, let us see what this minimum is so that we can continue to live on.

It seems to me that if we informed the public today about this it could result in a certain deal of constructive influence. Yesterday, I held the annual reception for the press. They all asked—the expectations are high about what is going to happen tomorrow. I told everybody: nothing. If our problems were so simple to be solved in the course of one talk perhaps we would not even need this one talk. There is no such thing that can be solved in one talk alone. Expectations run high and that is why we must air something constructive from this place. It seems to me that this would have a positive effect.

Slovenia Condemns USSR Action in Lithuania

LD1301213691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1923 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Ljubljana, 13 Jan (TANJUG)—"The military action of the Soviet Army on the territory of Lithuania is a violent encroachment which negates the fundamental rights of the Lithuanian people," the Executive Council of the Republic of Slovenia stated at this evening's extraordinary session.

The Slovene Government condemns this attack on Lithuania and expresses full solidarity with its democratic government, with the whole nation, and expresses regret because of the human victims. This act, it adds, undermines the hope in a democratic transformation of the USSR, and cannot contribute to the positive processes of security and cooperation in Europe.

The Executive Council also adopted a resolution to offer help to the coalition which is implementing the UN resolution on the withdrawal of the forces occupying Kuwait in the event of it coming to an armed conflict. The Republic of Slovenia is ready to offer assistance in the form of rescue and medical teams, and with the care of a certain number of the injured. As an expression of its

principled and specific support for the unanimous international condemnation of the aggression against Kuwait, the Republican Secretariat for International Cooperation will communicate the offer to the representatives of governments with their own forces in the Gulf.

Slovenia Offers Humanitarian Assistance in Gulf

LD1401010991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2004 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Ljubljana, Jan 13 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia will offer medical and humanitarian assistance to the multi-national forces in the Gulf in case an armed conflict breaks out.

This decision was made tonight by the Slovenian government at its special session. The government announced that the Republican Ministry for International Cooperation would convey this offer to the governments which hold their troops in the Gulf under the United Nations resolution on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Slovenia was prepared to offer "rescue and medical teams" and to "treat a number of wounded."

The Slovenian government emphasized that this was "an expression of principled and concrete support to the unanimous international condemnation of the aggression on Kuwait."

21 Nationals Leave Iraq; 80 To Leave 14 Jan

AU1401113891 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] A group of 21 Yugoslavs, including the TANJUG correspondent, arrived in Moscow from Baghdad this morning aboard an Aeroflot plane. Eighty more Yugoslavs, including the complete diplomatic staff of the SFRY Embassy, are still in Iraq. Most of them are expected to leave the Iraqi capital today.

Serbian Police Clash With Ethnic Albanians

AU1101145691 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 4 Jan 91 p 2

[Kamber Avdiu report: "Albanians Are Afraid That Hard Times Are Awaiting Them"]

[Excerpts] Pristina, 3 Jan—If one is to make conclusions from what has been happening in Kosovo, 1991 may be much harder for the ethnic Albanians there than was last year. Albanians, who learned yesterday about the so-called "suicide" committed by Izet Bushi, a soldier from Kacanik, cannot calm down at all.

We have learned that a large group of people gathered in Kacanik today to wait for the arrival of the soldier's remains. The Serbian police dispersed them. It will certainly find it difficult to do so tomorrow, when the young man will be buried. We know that at such occasions even as many as 100,000 people who want to pay tribute to their fellow villager may gather at the funeral.

Also yesterday, members of the Serbian police seriously wounded 24-year-old Rashid Vallci, a former militiamen of the Kosovo Internal Secretariat. [passage omitted]

Rashid Vallci was immediately transported to Titova Mitrovica Hospital for treatment. Because his health was critical and his wounds very serious, he was transported to a Skopje hospital, where doctors are still fighting to save his life.

Serbian President Milosevic Takes Oath 11 Jan

LD1101135391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1253 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Jan (TANJUG)—Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Serbian Republic, today took the formal oath in front of the newly constituted Serbian People's Assembly.

"I swear to devote all my strength to the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Serbian Republic, the exercise of human liberties and rights, the respect and defense of the law and constitution, and the preservation of peace and well-being of all citizens of the Serbian Republic. I shall conscientiously and responsibly carry out all my tasks," Slobodan Milosevic said in the formal oath in front of the deputies of the first multiparty Serbian People's Assembly.

Today's session of the assembly has been brought to a close. It will reconvene on Tuesday 15 January.

Croatian Militiamen 'Concentrating' in Knin

AU1301155591 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Milos Rajkovic report]

[Text] Following last night's explosions that destroyed two kiosks owned by Croation nationals, Knin is gripped by fear of possible intervention by members of the Croatian special police who are concentrating their forces on access roads to Krajina. Here is our special correspondent Milos Rajkovic:

[Rajkovic] The bombing of a flower shop and a food kiosk, located in two different parts of Knin and belonging to two respectable Croats, was linked to the concentration of special militiamen on access roads to Krajina yesterday.

It is belived these explosions represent a special kind of invitation to Croat militiamen to storm Knin and punish the Serbs who, as known, recently declared Krajina the Serbian Autonomous Region. This is supported by the fact that the explosions took place immediately after a program last night on Croatian Television in which party leaders openly demanded that the republic's Ministry for Internal Affairs finally establish law and order in Krajina.

The so-called Council of the National Committee appeared on Serbian Radio Knin, which broadcasts 24 hours a day, and spoke about violence against Serbs. The

statement read by the committee stressed that the bombing of the two kiosks in Knin was a premeditated terrorist act that demonstrated that Serbs and Croats can no longer live together in this region.

The investigation into last night's unpleasant events started immediately after the explosions. We have been informed by the Secretariat for Internal Affairs that the culprits have yet to be identified, although there are rumors in the town that the culprits are already known.

The streets of Knin are otherwise being patrolled by armed members of the reserve militia. Since last night they have been joined by youth patrols.

Members of the Croatian special police, who took positions on the access roads to Knin from Sinj, Drnis, and Zadar yesterday, have been reinforced. According to the news that reached the Knin Alarm Center from Gospic, the new strong forces of Croatian special militia are concentrated around Plitvicka Jezera. Like yesterday, they are not entering the territory of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina but are checking passengers and cars. Some individuals have been detained for interrogation.

People here still believe that members of the special militia will not attack Krajina, and that their action was meant to frighten the Serbian population and demonstrate that the recent order of the SFRY Presidency concerning the disarmament of paramilitary formations does not refer to them at all, but in fact to the Serbian people in Krajina.

Serb Communes Draft Militiamen in Croatia

AU1001201091 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 7 Jan 91 p 1

[S. Stamatovic report: "There Is No Break for Christmas Meal"]

[Excerpt] Knin—The general mobilization of the reserve militiamen in Knin and other communes of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina is still in effect. In Knin itself, groups of armed members of the reserve militia have been guarding vital facilities in the town yesterday and today. Armed with the Thompson rifles, they have been patrolling streets and guarding the Knin radio station in particular.

The mobilization of reserve militiamen in the Knin and other Serbian communes started three days ago after it was announced, following the decision of the Executive Council of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina, that the District Secretariat for Internal Affairs of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina will be set up and that it will be based in Knin.

The night before last, Knin radio broadcast every ten minutes the order for all members of the reserve militia to immediately report to their local station and to be fully equipped. We have learned that all reservists in Knin, Graca, Donji Lapac, and the other seven communes that make up the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina responded to the call.

So, the first new year's days brought to the citizens of the Knin region a new dose of uncertainty, anticipation, and anxiety, which was particularly felt in the villages of the Knin commune. The reasons for the citizens feeling anxious lie in the statements and messages of some Croatian officials that the Knin rebellion will soon be put down, that the Serbs will not even be able to eat their Christmas meal in peace, and that the Croatian flag will soon be fluttering on the Knin fortress.

The additional anxiety was caused by the presence of the Zagreb militia units in the neighboring commune of Drnis which was visited by Vladimir Seks, vice president of the Croatian Assembly, the day before yesterday.

We have unofficially learned these were the main reasons why the newly founded District Secretariat for Internal Affairs of Krajina mobilized reserve militiamen. [passage omitted]